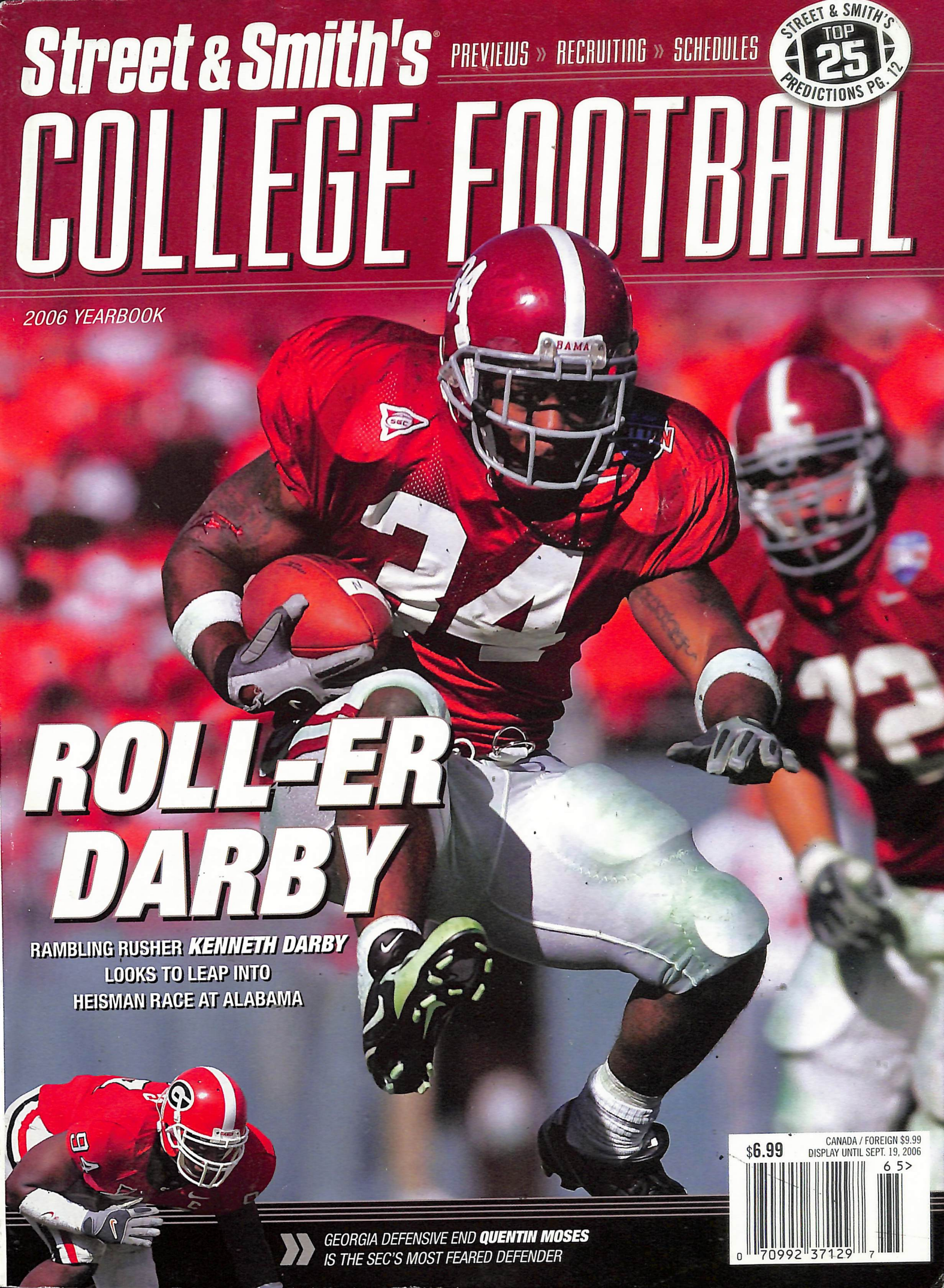
Street & Smith's COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PREVIEWS » RECRUITING » SCHEDULES

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 25 PREDICTIONS PG. 12

2006 YEARBOOK



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Getting better connected

There's a world map up in my office with red dots on every country that has e-mailed or called requesting a *Street & Smith's* yearbook. What began as a curiosity is now a real conversation piece as I explain to visitors how someone in Uruguay found out about us and what it was they were looking for.

In addition to Uruguay, we've sent magazines to New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Venezuela, Peru and all of Europe.

Until now, ordering magazines for those folks has been a difficult proposition. It has required an e-mail to us, which we forward to our distribution department, which then contacts the overseas customer and works out a payment method. A few weeks later, hopefully, they'll get the magazine.

Of course, it hasn't been exactly been easy for our loyal readers who are stateside. Everyone on our staff fields calls and e-mails every day from folks who want to know when our latest issue will hit newsstands, where they can find it when it does or, the most distressing, why they can't find it at a local store *after* our publication date.

There's nothing more frustrating for a reader than to want to purchase a publication and not be able to locate it. Conversely, there's nothing more frustrating for a publisher than to have a motivated buyer unable to make that purchase.

Well, we're happy to say that both factions' lives just got a bit easier. Now you can log on to our Web site, www.streetandsmiths.com, and order magazines directly online through our newly designed shopping cart. You can also order back issues if you're one of the many collectors of *Street & Smith's* publications and you need to fill in a missing year of *College Football* in your stash.

Many of you who call the office request a specific cover. As some of you know, most of our yearbooks have as many as 20 different regional covers, depending on the sport. So, if you're a Texas alum living in Southern California, you now have the option of getting your copy of S&S early, but with a Longhorn rather than a Trojan on the cover, as would be the case if you simply made the trip to a newsstand in Los Angeles.

Now, if you don't have access to the World Wide Web, you can still call us toll-free at 1-800-380-7404 weekdays (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET) to order magazines or to find out which newsstand near you carries *Street & Smith's*.

Of course, there aren't many of us who aren't connected to the Internet anymore, whether it be at work or home. We're hopeful that this new feature to our Web site will connect our readers to us better than they've ever been linked before.

And, as always, we appreciate your business.

SCOTT SMITH
EDITOR

ON DECK:

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JUNE 2006
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Audit Bureau of Circulations

2006 Team Index

A

Air Force	126
Akron	130
Alabama	112
Alabama A&M	160
Alabama State	160
Alabama-Birmingham	79
Albany	154
Alcorn State	160
Appalachian State	158
Arizona	96
Arizona State	90
Arkansas	113
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	160
Arkansas State	139
Army	143
Auburn	108
Austin Peay State	161

B

Ball State	135
Baylor	74
Bethune-Cookman	153
Boise State	116
Boston College	25
Bowling Green	131
Brigham Young	124
Brown	151
Bucknell	156
Buffalo	132
Butler	157

C

California	86
Cal Poly	150
Central Arkansas	161
Central Connecticut St.	154
Central Florida	76
Central Michigan	134
Charleston Southern	148
Chattanooga	158
Cincinnati	43
Citadel	158
Clemson	24
Coastal Carolina	148
Colgate	156
Colorado	67
Colorado State	127
Columbia	151
Connecticut	42
Cornell	151

D

Dartmouth	151
Davidson	157
Dayton	157
Delaware	146
Delaware State	153
Drake	157
Duke	34
Duquesne	152

E

East Carolina	79
Eastern Illinois	155
Eastern Kentucky	155
Eastern Michigan	135
Eastern Washington	147
Elon	158

F

Florida	100
Florida A&M	153
Florida Atlantic	139
Florida International	138
Florida State	21
Fordham	156
Fresno State	118
Furman	158

G

Gardner-Webb	148
Georgetown	156
Georgia	102
Georgia Southern	158
Georgia Tech	32
Grambling State	160

H

Hampton	153
Harvard	151
Hawaii	119
Hofstra	145
Holy Cross	156
Houston	82
Howard	153

I

Idaho	121
Idaho State	147
Illinois	59
Illinois State	149
Indiana	59
Indiana State	149
Iona	152
Iowa	52
Iowa State	63

J

Jackson State	160
Jacksonville	157
Jacksonville State	155
James Madison	146

K

Kansas	66
Kansas State	67
Kent State	132
Kentucky	106

L

Lafayette	156
La Salle	152
Lehigh	156
Liberty	148
Louisiana State	110
Louisiana Tech	119
Louisiana-Lafayette	137
Louisiana-Monroe	139
Louisville	38

M

Maine	145
Marist	152
Marshall	78
Maryland	26
Massachusetts	145
McNeese State	159
Memphis	78
Miami (FL)	28
Miami (OH)	131
Michigan	48
Michigan State	55
Middle Tennessee	138
Minnesota	57
Mississippi	114
Mississippi State	114
Mississippi Valley State	160
Missouri	65
Missouri State	149
Monmouth	154
Montana	147
Montana State	147
Morehead State	157
Morgan State	153
Murray State	155

N

Navy	142
Nebraska	61
Nevada	117
New Hampshire	145
New Mexico	126
New Mexico State	121
Nicholls State	159
Norfolk State	153
North Carolina	34
North Carolina A&T	153
North Carolina State	27
North Dakota State	150
North Texas	138
Northeastern	146
Northern Arizona	147
Northern Colorado	147
Northern Illinois	133
Northern Iowa	149
Northwestern	56
Northwestern State	159
Notre Dame	140

O

Ohio	132
Ohio State	46
Oklahoma	70
Oklahoma State	74
Oregon	92
Oregon State	94

P

Penn	151
Penn State	50
Pittsburgh	40
Portland State	147
Prairie View A&M	160
Princeton	151
Purdue	58

R

Rhode Island	146
Rice	83
Richmond	146
Robert Morris	154
Rutgers	41

S

Sacramento State	147
Sacred Heart	154
St. Francis (PA)	154
St. Peter's (NJ)	152
Sam Houston State	159
Samford	155
San Diego	157
San Diego State	128
San Jose State	120
Savannah State	161
South Carolina	105
South Carolina State	153
South Dakota State	150
South Florida	42
Southeast Missouri	155
Southeastern Louisiana	159
Southern	160
Southern California	88
Southern Illinois	160
Southern Methodist	82
Southern Mississippi	77
Southern Utah	150
Stanford	96
Stephen F. Austin	159
Stony Brook	154
Syracuse	43

T

Temple	143
Tennessee	104
Tennessee-Martin	155
Tennessee State	155
Tennessee Tech	155
Texas	68
Texas A&M	73
Texas Christian	123
Texas Southern	160
Texas State	159
Texas Tech	72
Toledo	134
Towson	146
Troy State	137
Tulane	83
Tulsa	80

U

UCLA	95
UNLV	127
Utah	125
Utah State	120
UTEP	81

V

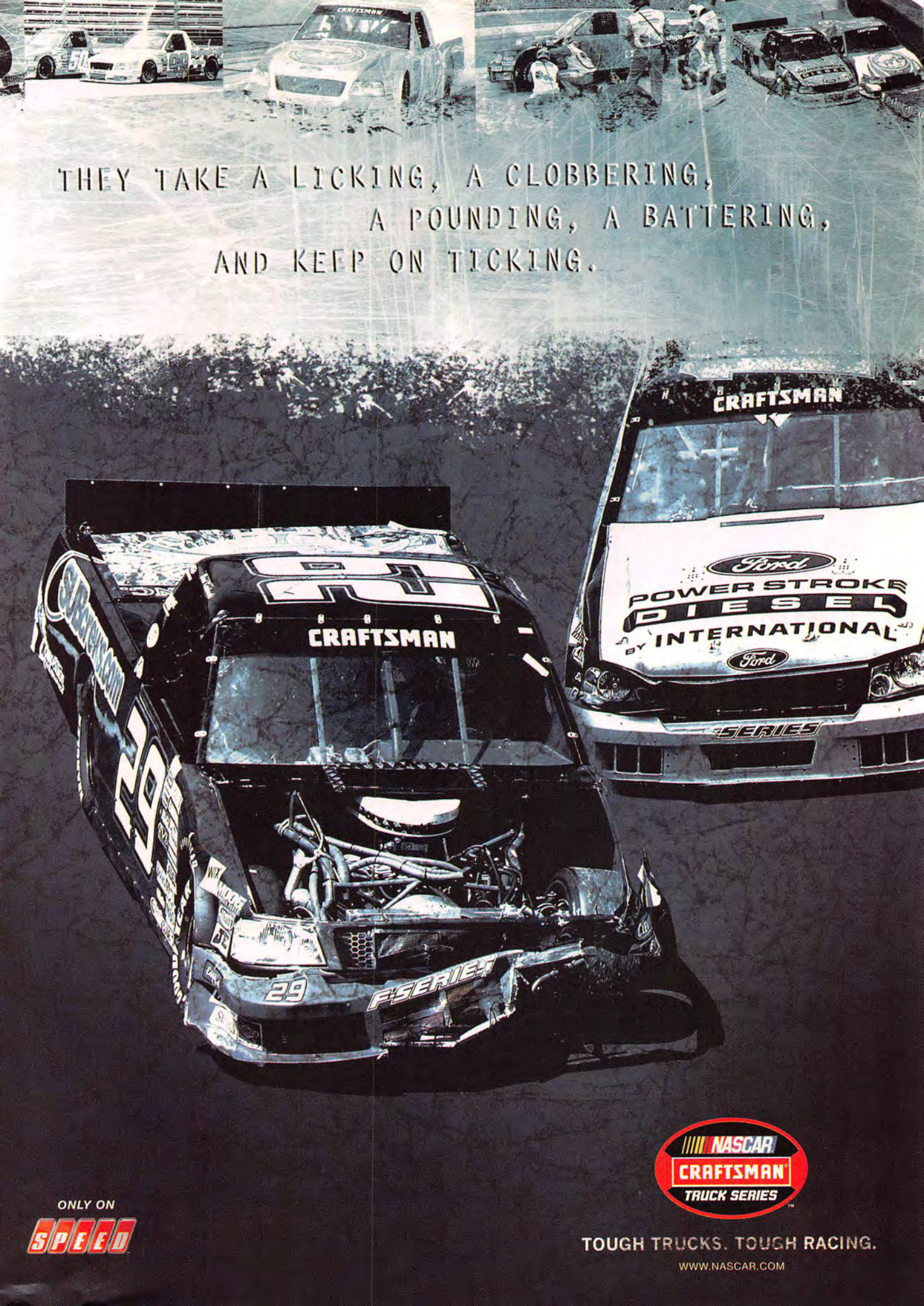
Valparaiso	157
Vanderbilt	106
Villanova	146
Virginia	33
Virginia Military	148
Virginia Tech	30

W

Wagner	154
Wake Forest	27
Washington	97
Washington State	97
Weber State	147
West Virginia	36
Western Carolina	158
Western Illinois	149
Western Kentucky	149
Western Michigan	135
William & Mary	146
Winston-Salem State	161
Wisconsin	54
Wofford	158
Wyoming	128

Y

Yale	151
Youngstown State	149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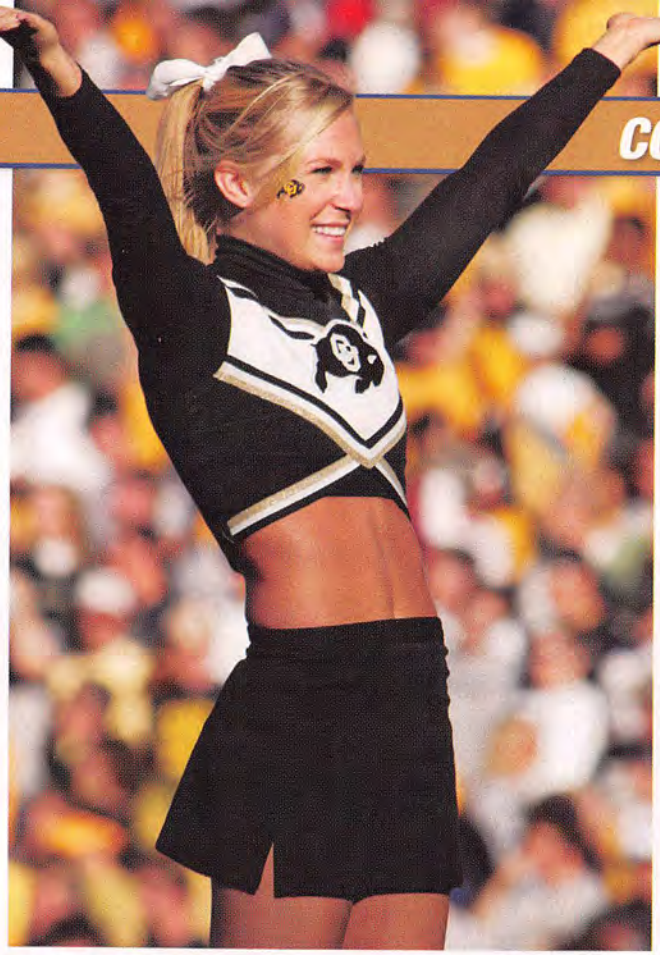


CONTENTS

YEAR OF THE BUCKEYE: Ohio State is looking toward a banner year

FEATURES

6 TARGETS

8 *STREET & SMITH'S* ALL-AMERICA TEAM

12 NATIONAL OVERVIEW
By Scott Rabalais, *The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate*
Yet another in the long line of 'tweaks' to the BCS is set to debut next January, but you're going to have to look real hard to find real change.

18 QUESTION TIME ... WITH BOBBY BOWDEN
By Matt McKenzie, *Street & Smith's staff writer*
At 76, the legendary and unretiring Florida State coach talks family, a special friend, the BCS—and 'Wide Right.'

170 JUCO REPORT

173 *STREET & SMITH'S* 25TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM
By Doug Huff
Our look at the country's Top 50 senior prep gridiron stars, plus the Top 25 teams to watch.

181 2005 FINAL STATS

185 2005 SEASON RECAP

188 DIVISION I SCHEDULES

196 BOWL SCHEDULES

COVERS: REGION 1: **L.V. Whitworth** - Tomasso Derosa, **Andre Callender** - Bruce Schwartzman, **Ricky Santos** - Courtesy University of New Hampshire, background - Robert E. Klein / Icon SMI; REGION 2: **Clark Harris** - Paul Jasienski, **Turner Gill** - Paul Hokanson / University at Buffalo; REGION 3: **Paul Posluszny** - Mark Hawkins, **H.B. Blades** - Sean Brady / Wire Image.com, **Dan Mozes** - Jeff Fishbein; REGION 4: **Marcus Hamilton** - Rodger M. Wood, **Lance Ball** - Tomasso Derosa, background - Rodger M. Wood; REGION 5: **Sidney Rice** - Travis Bell / Sideline Carolina, **Chansi Stuckey** - Vern Verna / Ai Wire, **Jesse Holley** / Ai Wire, **Marques Murrell** - Douglas Jones / Icon SMI; REGION 6: **Kenneth Darby** - Ronald Martinez / Getty Images, **Quentin Moses** - David Johnson / GO Photography; REGION 7: **Brady Quinn** - Rick Kimball, **Michael Bush** - Dave Klotz / Icon SMI; REGION 8: **Alley Broussard** - Steve Franz / LSU Athletic Dept., **Patrick Willis** - Courtesy Ole Miss; REGION 9: **Chris Leak** - Christopher Gooley / US PressWire, **Drew Weatherford** - Rex Brown / Wire Image.com, **Kyle Wright** - Al Messerschmidt / Wire Image.com; REGION 10: **Michael Griffin** and **Dennis Franchione** - John Williamson; REGION 11: **Troy Smith** - Rick Scuteri / US PressWire, **Pierre Thomas** - Mike Granse / Wire Image.com; REGION 12: **Chad Henne** - Rob Tringali / SportsChrome, **Brett Bielema** - Courtesy University of Wisconsin; REGION 13: **Rufus Alexander** - John Williamson, **Dan Hawkins** - Courtesy University of Colorado; REGION 14: **Adam Carriker** - G. Newman Lowrance / Wire Image.com, **Drew Tate** and **Bret Meyer** - Dennis Hubbard; REGION 15: **Jason Hill** - John Pyle / Icon SMI, **Sabby Piscitelli** - Allan Campbell / Wire Image.com; REGION 16: **Steve Smith** - Andy Altenburger / Icon SMI, **Antoine Cason** - Brad Schloss / Icon SMI

CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

DIVISION I-A

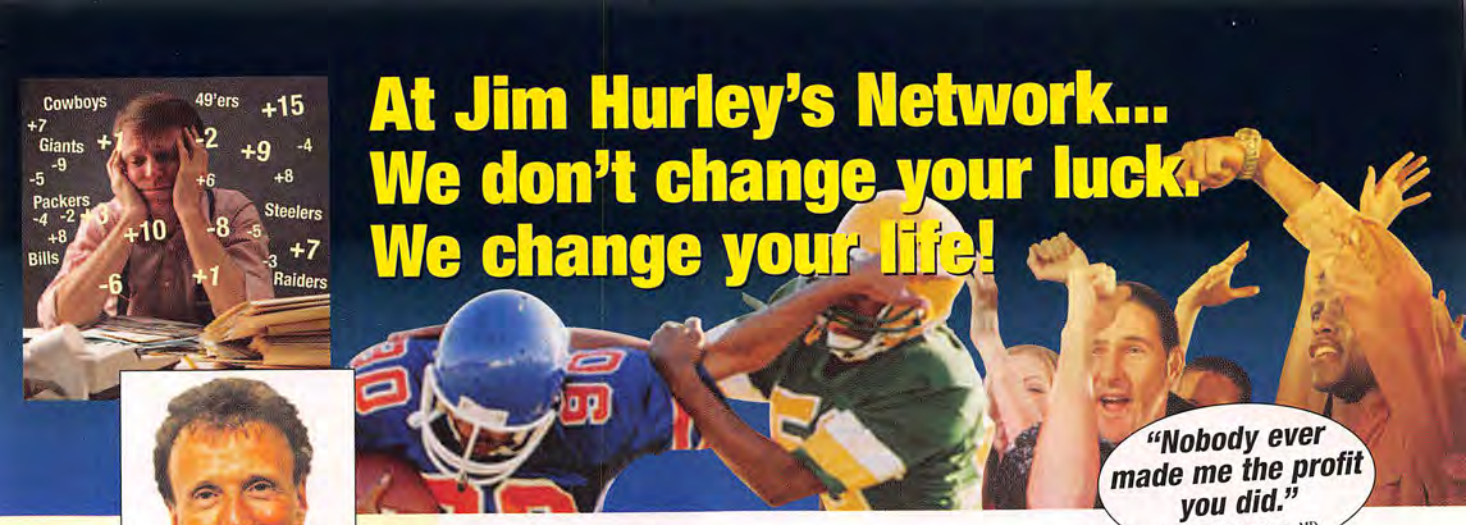
20 ACC
35 Big East
44 Big Ten
60 Big 12
75 Conference USA
84 Pac-10
98 SEC
115 WAC
122 Mountain West
129 Mid-American
136 Sun Belt
140 Independents

DIVISION I-AA

144 Overview
145 Atlantic 10
147 Big Sky
148 Big South
149 Gateway
150 Great West
151 Ivy
152 Metro Atlantic
153 MEAC
154 Northeast
155 Ohio Valley
156 Patriot
157 Pioneer
158 Southern
159 Southland
160 SWAC
161 Independents

SMALL COLLEGE PREVIEW

162 Divison II
166 Division III



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Jim Hurley
Founder & President - Jim Hurley's Network

Hi. I'm Jim Hurley, founder and President of Jim Hurley's Network. For twenty-one years my nationwide team of football stringers have been delivering reliable football information that has turned up-and-down losers into steady winners.

With spies embedded all over football and Vegas, our info goes deeper than a website. Fresher than a press handout. We don't stop at giveaways/takeaways or yards per carry. We zero in on positional edge, mental readiness, quality points. It's how we spot off-lines and turn them into money.

This is why our ATM games (All The Money) lived up to their name last year.

Check the highlights:

S17	Mich St (+6) Notre Dame	44-41	W
S19	Redskins (+6) Cowboys	14-13	W
	Redskins / Cowboys ↓35½	14-13	W
O22	Kentucky (+10) Ole Miss	7-13	W
O29	Oklahoma (-2) Nebraska	31-24	W
N19	Oklahoma (+7½) Tex Tech	21-23	W
D 3	Georgia (+1½) LSU	34-14	W
D17	Patriots (-6) Bucs	28-0	W
D18	Chargers (+7½) Colts	26-17	W
J 2	Alabama (+3½) Tex Tech	13-10	W
J 8	Panthers (+3) Giants	23-0	W

Since '85, we have won virtually every year. Some decent, some really good, and some so glorious they belong in the time capsule. And that's what I want to talk to you about now.

Jimmy Vaccaro, legendary dean of Las Vegas linesmakers, says: *"You swear at the guy because he beats you. Then you swear BY him because his numbers are so good."*

College & Pro Football Newsweekly writes: *"Jim Hurley knows how to put ten kinds of information together to get one kind of result –winners."*

Athlon Football Annual says: *"Jim Hurley is living proof that right methods produce right results."*

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- ***MY SEPTEMBER GAME OF THE YEAR-*** my biggest play of all. Won in '05 with Michigan State (+5) over Notre Dame 44-41. PLUS October, November and December Games of the Year, too
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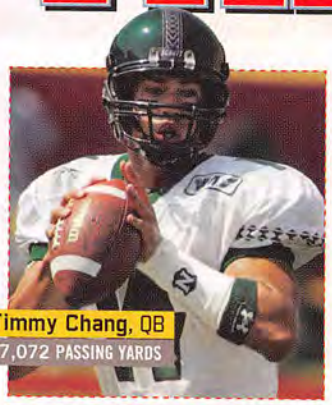
TARGETS

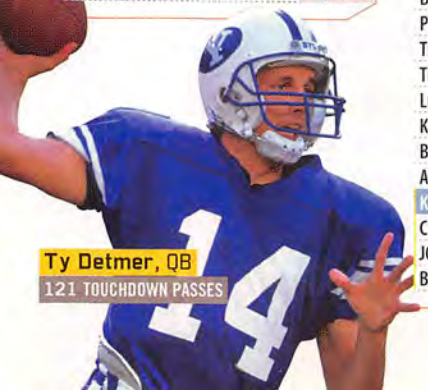
A look at college football's all-time Division I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them.
–statistics courtesy of NCAA



Timmy Chang, QB
17,072 PASSING YARDS

PASSING YARDS

Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	17,072
Ty Detmer, *Brigham Young*	15,031
Philip Rivers, *N.C. State*	13,484
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	12,746
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	12,666
Chris Redman, *Louisville*	12,541
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	12,429
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	11,903
David Greene, *Georgia*	11,528
Gino Guidugli, *Cincinnati*	11,453
Todd Santos, *San Diego State*	11,425
Carson Palmer, *USC*	11,388
Tim Lester, *Western Michigan*	11,299
Derek Anderson, *Oregon State*	11,249
Peyton Manning, *Tennessee*	11,201
Eric Zeier, *Georgia*	11,153
Charlie Frye, *Akron*	11,049
Ryan Schneider, *Central Florida*	10,976
Alex Van Pelt, *Pittsburgh*	10,913
Drew Brees, *Purdue*	10,909
David Neill, *Nevada*	10,903
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	10,875
Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (Ohio)*	10,829
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	10,698
Dan Orlovsky, *Connecticut*	10,706
Matt Leinart, *USC*	10,693
Kevin Sweeney, *Fresno State*	10,623
Andrew Walter, *Arizona State*	10,617
Brett Basanez, *Northwestern*	10,580
Doug Flutie, *Boston College*	10,579
Steve Stenstrom, *Stanford*	10,531
Jared Lorenzen, *Kentucky*	10,354
Brian McClure, *Bowling Green*	10,280
Troy Kopp, *Pacific*	10,258
Danny Wimprine, *Memphis*	10,215
Paul Pinegar, *Fresno State*	10,136
Eli Manning, *Mississippi*	10,119
Glenn Foley, *Boston College*	10,042
Cade McNown, *UCLA*	10,008
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
KEVIN KOLB, *Houston*	9,155
BRADY QUINN, *Notre Dame*	8,336
CHRIS LEAK, *Florida*	8,271



Ty Detmer, QB
121 TOUCHDOWN PASSES

TOUCHDOWNS

Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	78
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	75
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	69
Brock Forsey, *Boise State*	68
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	67
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	65
Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	63
Marshall Faulk, *San Diego State*	62
DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	60
Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	59
Glenn Davis, *Army*	59
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	59
Dwone Hicks, *Middle Tennessee*	59
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	59
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
BRIAN LEONARD, *Rutgers*	40
MICHAEL BUSH, *Louisville*	38
GARRETT WOLFE, *Northern Illinois*	38

POINTS

Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	468
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	452
Roman Anderson, *Houston*	423
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	414
Billy Bennett, *Georgia*	409
Brock Forsey, *Boise State*	408
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	404
Carlos Huerta, *Miami (Fla.)*	397
Jason Elam, *Hawaii*	395
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	394
Nick Novak, *Maryland*	393
Derek Schmidt, *Florida State*	393
Kris Brown, *Nebraska*	388
Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	378
Marshall Faulk, *San Diego State*	376
Xavier Beitia, *Florida State*	375
Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	374
Shayne Graham, *Virginia Tech*	371
Jeff Hall, *Tennessee*	371
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
JON PEATTIE, *Miami (Fla.)*	272
GARRETT RIVAS, *Michigan*	261
DARREN McCALEB, *Southern Miss*	255

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Ty Detmer, *Brigham Young*	121
Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	117
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	115
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	114
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	100
Matt Leinart, *USC*	99
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	95
Philip Rivers, *North Carolina State*	95
David Klingler, *Houston*	91
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	89
Peyton Manning, *Tennessee*	89
Troy Kopp, *Pacific*	87
Tim Lester, *Western Michigan*	87
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	87
Ken Dorsey, *Miami (Fla.)*	86
Bruce Gradkowski, *Toledo*	85
Andrew Walter, *Arizona State*	85
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
CHRIS LEAK, *Florida*	65
JORDAN PALMER, *UTEP*	62
BRADY QUINN, *Notre Dame*	58

DeAngelo Williams, RB
6,026 RUSHING YARDS

RUSHING YARDS

Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	6,397
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	6,279
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	6,082
DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	6,026
Charles White, *USC*	5,598
Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	5,596
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	5,540
LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU*	5,263
Herschel Walker, *Georgia*	5,259
Archie Griffin, *Ohio State*	5,177
Darren Lewis, *Texas A&M*	5,012
Darren Sproles, *Kansas State*	4,979
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	4,973
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	4,965
George Rogers, *South Carolina*	4,958
Trevor Cobb, *Rice*	4,948
Michael Turner, *Northern Illinois*	4,941
Paul Palmer, *Temple*	4,895
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
GARRETT WOLFE, *Northern Illinois*	3,236
ADRIAN PETERSON, *Oklahoma*	3,033
ROBERT MERRILL, *TCU*	2,771

RECEIVING YARDS

Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	5,005
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	4,518
Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State*	4,414
Ryan Yarborough, *Wyoming*	4,357
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	4,352
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	4,345
Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	4,254
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	4,249
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	4,031
Troy Walters, *Stanford*	3,986
Derek Hagan, *Arizona State*	3,939
Mike Hass, *Oregon State*	3,924
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	3,889
Roy Williams, *Texas*	3,866
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	3,789
Marc Zeno, *Tulane*	3,725
Brandon Stokley, *La.-Lafayette*	3,702
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	3,670
David Anderson, *Colorado State*	3,634
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	3,626
John Standeford, *Purdue*	3,618
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
JARRETT HICKS, *Texas Tech*	2,525
RYNE ROBINSON, *Miami (Ohio)*	2,519
ERIC DESLAURIERS, *E. Michigan*	2,352

INTERCEPTIONS

Al Brosky, *Illinois*	29
Martin Bayless, *Bowling Green*	27
John Provost, *Holy Cross*	27
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
JOHN TALLEY, *Duke*	11
ERIC WEDDLE, *Utah*	11
MARCUS HAMILTON, *Virginia*	10

RECEPTIONS

Taylor Stubblefield, *Purdue*	316
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	306
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	303
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	300
Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	298
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	295
Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State*	293
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	280
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	272
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	266
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	264
Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	263
Mark Templeton, *Long Beach State*	262
J.R. Tolver, *San Diego State*	262
Howard Twilley, *Tulsa*	261
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	259
Wes Welker, *Texas Tech*	259
Derek Hagan, *Arizona State*	258
Braylon Edwards, *Michigan*	252
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	250
John Standeford, *Purdue*	249
Nate Burleson, *Nevada*	248
James Jordan, *Louisiana Tech*	246
David Williams, *Illinois*	245
Troy Walters, *Stanford*	244
Brandon Stokley, *Louisiana-Lafayette*	241
Roy Williams, *Texas*	241
Chad Owens, *Hawaii*	239
Greg Jennings, *Western Michigan*	238
Kendall Newson, *Middle Tennessee*	238
Dante Ridgeway, *Ball State*	238
Reggie Williams, *Washington*	238
Marc Zeno, *Tulane*	236
Steve Neal, *Western Michigan*	235
Jason Wolf, *Southern Methodist*	235
Knocking on the door *(active career leaders)*	
ERIC DESLAURIERS, *Eastern Michigan*	174
JARRETT HICKS, *Texas Tech*	173
STEVE ODOM, *Toledo*	170

Jarrett Hicks, WR
2,525 RECEIVING YARDS

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Street & Smith's AND Walter Camp FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

2006 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

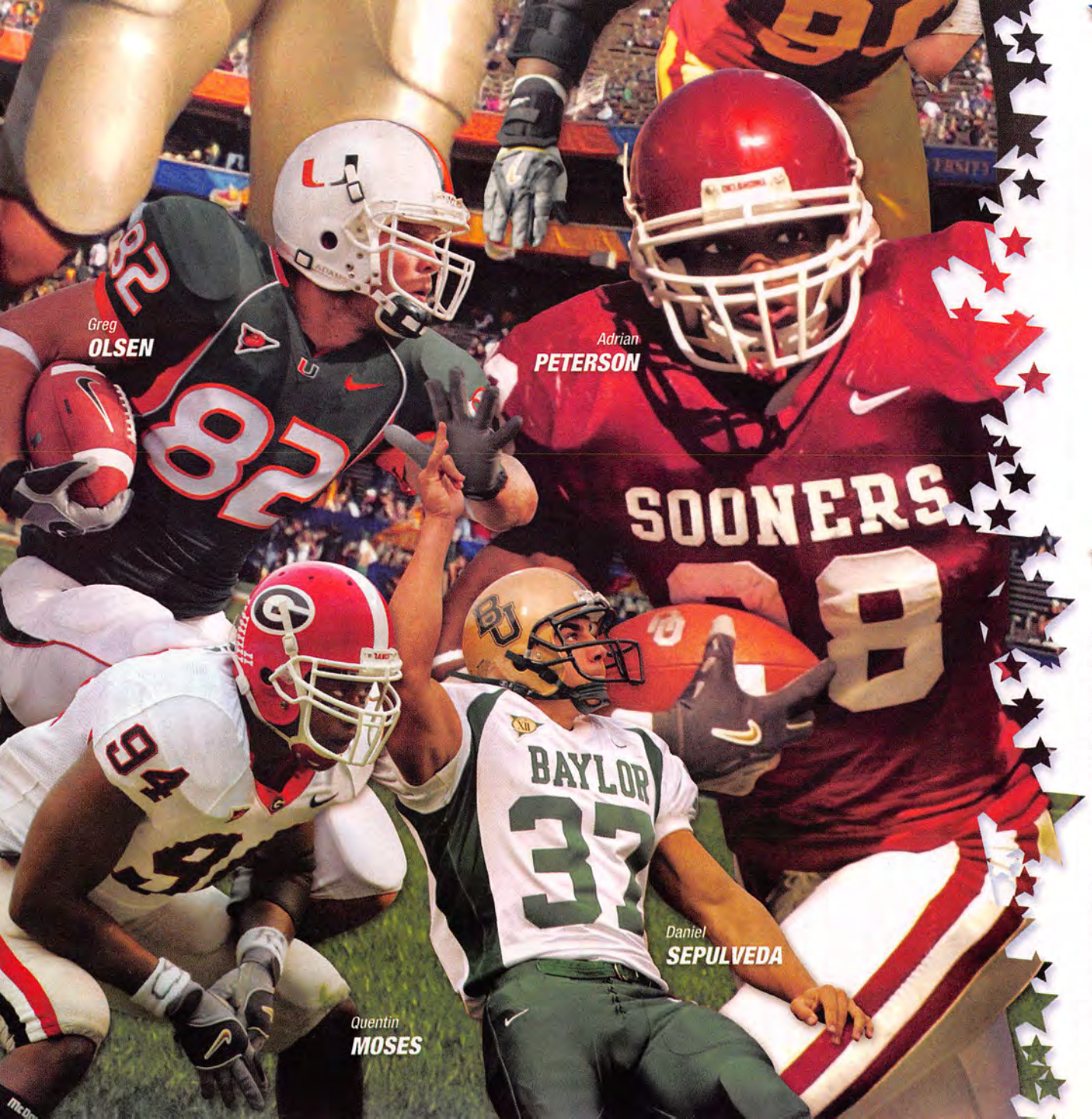
★ FIRST TEAM ★

OFFENSE

QB	**Brady Quinn** SR Notre Dame
RB	**Adrian Peterson** JR Oklahoma
RB	**Marshawn Lynch** JR California
WR	**Dwayne Jarrett** JR USC
WR	**Jeff Samardzija** SR Notre Dame
OL	**Justin Blalock** SR Texas
OL	**Sam Baker** JR USC
OL	**Arron Sears** SR Tennessee
OL	**Ryan Kalil** SR USC
OL	**Mark Fenton** SR Colorado
TE	**Greg Olsen** JR Miami
PK	**Mason Crosby** SR Colorado
KR	**Brandon Tate** SO North Carolina

DEFENSE

DL	**Quentin Moses** SR Georgia
DL	**Chris Long** JR Virginia
DL	**LaMarr Woodley** SR Michigan
DL	**Lawrence Jackson** JR USC
LB	**Paul Posluszny** SR Penn State
LB	**Desmond Bishop** SR California
LB	**Patrick Willis** SR Mississippi
DB	**Brandon Meriweather** SR Miami
DB	**Leon Hall** SR Michigan
DB	**Darrelle Revis** JR Pittsburgh
DB	**LaRon Landry** SR LSU
P	**Daniel Sepulveda** SR Baylor



QUINN: JOHN GREEN / ICON SMI; POSLUSZNY: CHUCK RYDLEWSKI; JACKSON: KEVIN REECE / ICON SMI; PETERSON: PAUL JASIENSKI; SEPULVEDA: JOHN WILLIAMSON; MOSES: JEFF ROBINSON; OLSEN: TOM DIPACE

★ SECOND TEAM ★

OFFENSE

QB	**Chris Leak** SR Florida
RB	**Kenneth Darby** SR Alabama
RB	**Kenny Irons** SR Auburn
WR	**Earl Bennett** SO Vanderbilt
WR	**Calvin Johnson** JR Georgia Tech
OL	**Daniel Inman** SR Georgia
OL	**Levi Brown** SR Penn State
OL	**Jake Long** SR Michigan
OL	**Joe Thomas** SR Wisconsin
OL	**Josh Beekman** SR Boston College
TE	**Matt Spaeth** SR Minnesota
PK	**Alexis Serna** JR Oregon State
KR	**Tim Mixon** SR California

DEFENSE

DL	**C.J. Ah You** SR Oklahoma
DL	**Ken Iwebema** JR Iowa
DL	**Nu'u Tafisi** SR California
DL	**Baraka Atkins** SR Miami
LB	**Rufus Alexander** SR Oklahoma
LB	**Keith Rivers** JR USC
LB	**Anthony Waters** SR Clemson
DB	**Marcus Hamilton** SR Virginia
DB	**Tom Zbikowski** SR Notre Dame
DB	**Michael Griffin** SR Texas
DB	**Daymeion Hughes** SR California
P	**Ken DeBauche** JR Wisconsin

★ THIRD TEAM ★

OFFENSE

QB	**Troy Smith** SR Ohio State
RB	**Tyrell Sutton** SO Northwestern
RB	**Garrett Wolfe** SR Northern Illinois
WR	**Sidney Rice** SO South Carolina
WR	**Jason Hill** SR Washington State
OL	**Ryan Harris** SR Notre Dame
OL	**Steve Vallos** SR Wake Forest
OL	**Enoka Lucas** SR Oregon
OL	**Tanner Jenkins** SR Arkansas State
OL	**Kyle Young** SR Fresno State
TE	**Clark Harris** SR Rutgers
PK	**Brandon Coutu** JR Georgia
KR	**Willie Foster** SR Rutgers

DEFENSE

DL	**Brandon Mebane** SR California
DL	**Kevin Brown** JR UCLA
DL	**Victor Abiamiri** SR Notre Dame
DL	**Mkristo Bruce** SR Washington State
LB	**Buster Davis** SR Florida State
LB	**H.B. Blades** SR Pittsburgh
LB	**Dave Harris** SR Michigan
DB	**J.D. Nelson** SR Oregon
DB	**David Irons** SR Auburn
DB	**Eric Wicks** SR West Virginia
DB	**Josh Wilson** SR Maryland
P	**Jimmie Kaylor** JR Colorado State

HONORABLE MENTION

QUARTERBACKS

Kyle Wright JR Miami
Chad Henne JR Michigan
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU
Drew Tate SR Iowa
Brian Brohm JR Louisville
Reggie Ball SR Georgia Tech
Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh
Trent Edwards SR Stanford
Drew Weatherford SO Florida St.
Kevin Kolb JR Houston
Patrick White SO West Virginia
Drew Stanton SR Michigan State
Sam Keller SR Arizona State
Sam Hollenbach SR Maryland
John Stocco SR Wisconsin
Zac Taylor SR Nebraska
Jordan Palmer SR UTEP
Colt Brennan JR Hawaii
Bret Meyer JR Iowa State
John Beck SR BYU
Isaiah Stanback SR Washington
Jared Zabransky SR Boise State
Clint Marks SR Middle Tennessee
Shaun Carney JR Air Force
Jeff Rowe SR Nevada

RUNNING BACKS

Yvenson Bernard JR Oregon St.
Darren McFadden SO Arkansas
Tyrone Moss SR Miami
James Davis SO Clemson
Thomas Brown JR Georgia
Jamaal Charles SO Texas
Mike Hart JR Michigan
Rafael Little JR Kentucky
Courtney Lewis SR Texas A&M
Chris Markey JR UCLA
Steve Slaton SO West Virginia
Kyle Bell JR Colorado State
Lorenzo Booker SR Florida State
Aaron Brown SO TCU
Ahmad Bradshaw JR Marshall
Mico McSwain SO Mississippi
Mike Hamilton SO Oklahoma St.
Tony Hunt SR Penn State
Raymell Rice SO Rutgers
Pierre Thomas SR Illinois
Curtis Brown SR BYU
Albert Young JR Iowa
Rudy Burgess JR Arizona State
Michael Bush SR Louisville
Tyrell Fenroy SO La.-Lafayette
Jamario Thomas JR North Texas
Lance Ball JR Maryland

WIDE RECEIVERS

Steve Smith SR USC
Chansi Stuckey SR Clemson
Jarrett Hicks SR Texas Tech
Aundrae Allison SR East Carolina
D.J. Hall JR Alabama
Joe Cowan SR UCLA
Dominique Zeigler SR Baylor
Michael Thomas SO Arizona
Ted Ginn Jr. JR Ohio State
Vincent Marshall JR Houston
Robert Johnson SR Texas Tech
Caleb Spencer SR Nevada
Michael Bumpus JR Washington St.
Dorien Bryant JR Purdue
Tony Pennyman SR Utah State
Todd Blythe JR Iowa State
Devone Bess SO Hawaii
Joel Filani SR Texas Tech
Brent Casteel SO Utah
Derrick Williams SO Penn State
Paul Williams SR Fresno State
Mario Urrutia SO Louisville
James Hardy SO Indiana
Ryan Grice-Mullen SO Hawaii

OFFENSIVE LINE

Leroy Harris SR N.C. State
Adam Spieker JR Missouri
Shannon Tevaga JR UCLA
Cory Niblock SR Florida State
Jeremy Perry SO Oregon State
Manuel Ramirez SR Texas Tech
Brian Chacos SR North Carolina
Brian Stamper SR Vanderbilt
Corey Hilliard SR Oklahoma State
Kirk Barton JR Ohio State
Cedric Gagne-Marcoux SR C. Fla.
Mike Otto SR Purdue
David Ochoa SR Kansas
Eric Wood SO Louisville
Dan Mozes SR West Virginia
Nathan Bennett SR Clemson
Doug Datish SR Ohio State
Jeff Perrett SR Tulsa
Jordan Grimes JR Purdue
Doug Free SR Northern Illinois
Max Unger SO Oregon
Marshal Ausberry JR Virginia
Ryan Wendell JR Fresno State
Kevin Tuminello JR Georgia Tech
Herbert Taylor SR TCU
Michael Oher SO Mississippi
Jake Kuresa SR BYU
Yemi Babalola SO Texas A&M
Kory Lichtensteiger JR Bowl. Green
Samson Satele SR Hawaii
Robert Turner SR New Mexico
Jeremy Sheffey SR West Virginia
Kurt Quarterman SR Louisville
Dallas Reynolds SO BYU
Theodric Watson SR South Florida
Sean Sester JR Purdue
Tim Duckworth SR Auburn

TIGHT ENDS

Martin Rucker JR Missouri
Jonny Harline SR BYU
Matt Herian SR Nebraska
Shawn Nelson SO Southern Miss
Ben Barkema JR Iowa State
Kory Sperry JR Colorado State
Zach Miller JR Arizona State
Eric Butler JR Mississippi State
Craig Stevens JR California
Martellus Bennett SO Texas A&M
Dan Murray SR Connecticut
Scott Chandler SR Iowa
Chase Coffman SO Missouri

PLACEKICKERS

Brandon Pace SR Virginia Tech
Jad Dean SR Clemson
Darren McCaleb SR Southern Miss
Justin Medlock SR UCLA
Andrew Wellock SR Eastern Mich.
Mario Danelo JR USC
Garrett Rivas SR Michigan
Arthur Carmody JR Louisville
Kyle Schlicher SR Iowa
Mike Barrow SR Idaho
Reagan Schneider SR UTEP
Sam Swank SO Wake Forest
Matt Nuzie SR Connecticut
Jeremy Ito JR Rutgers

KICK RETURNERS

Darrell Blackman JR N.C. State
Terrence Nunn JR Nebraska
Steve Breaston SR Michigan
Jessie Henderson SO SMU
Terry Richardson SR Arizona St.
DeAndre Jackson SR Iowa State
Antonio Lewis JR West Virginia

DEFENSIVE LINE

Derek Landri SR Notre Dame
Brian Smith SR Missouri
Sedrick Ellis JR USC
Trevor Laws SR Notre Dame
Adam Carriker SR Nebraska
Justin Hickman SR UCLA
Larry McSwain SR UAB
Frank Okam JR Texas
Brent Curvey SR Iowa State
Jay Alford SR Penn State
Jordan Hill SR Arizona State
Andre Fluellen JR Florida State
Tommy Blake JR TCU
Justin Harrell SR Tennessee
Gaines Adams SR Clemson
Victor DeGrate SR Oklahoma St.
Justin Rogers SR SMU
Marcus Foreman SR Baylor
Daniel Bazuin SR Central Mich.
Matt Robinson JR Wake Forest
Quinn Pitcock SR Ohio State
Jesse Nading JR Colorado State
Ramel Meekins SR Rutgers
Tim Crowder SR Texas
Brigham Harwell JR UCLA
Rhema Fuller SR Connecticut

LINEBACKERS

Brandon Siler JR Florida
Dedrick Harrington SR Missouri
Juwan Simpson SR Alabama
Oscar Lua SR USC
Xavier Adibi JR Virginia Tech
Brian Toal JR Boston College
Mike Alston SR Toledo
Larry Edwards SR North Carolina
Keyunta Dawson SR Texas Tech
Korey Hall SR Boise State
Sam Olajubutu SR Arkansas
Jon Abbate JR Wake Forest
Cameron Jensen SR BYU
Lawrence Timmons JR Florida St.
Vince Hall JR Virginia Tech
Corey Smith SO Cincinnati
Kevin McLee SR West Virginia
Quinton Culberson SR Miss. State
KaMichael Hall SR Georgia Tech
Stephen Nicholas SR South Florida
Keyonvis Bouie SR Florida Intl.
Nick Bunting SR Tulsa
Rob Caldwell SR Navy
Ameer Ismail SR Western Mich.
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska
Will Herring SR Auburn

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Antoine Cason JR Arizona
Trey Brown JR UCLA
Tarell Brown SR Texas
Sabby Piscitelli SR Oregon State
C.J. Wilson SR Baylor
Wesley Smith SR Memphis
David Overstreet SR Missouri
Bobby Blackshire SR Tulsa
Zach Catanese SR Arizona State
John Wendling SR Wyoming
Patrick Chung SO Oregon
Tyrell Johnson JR Arkansas State
Josh Gattis SR Wake Forest
Eric Weddle SR Utah
Chris Horton JR UCLA
Courtney Greene SO Rutgers
Curtis Keyes SR Marshall
Jamie Silva JR Boston College
Joe Burnett SO Central Florida
John Talley SR Duke
Bobby Giannini JR Air Force

PUNTERS

Chris Jackson SR LSU
Adam Podlesh SR Maryland
Justin Brantly SO Texas A&M
Sean Douglas SR Washington
Jeremy Kapinos SR Penn State
Kyle Tucker JR Kansas
Brandon Fields SR Michigan St.
John Deraney SR N.C. State
Michael Gibson SR Memphis
Brendan Carney SR Syracuse
Nic Schmitt SR Virginia Tech
Michael Hughes JR San Diego St.
Kyle Stringer SR Boise State

Darren **McFADDEN** *Heisman candidate*

DENNIS HIRABARI, OBOSITE, A TO D; PAUL HAWTHORNE / WIRE IMAGE COM; TONY DINO / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATES

★ HEISMAN TROPHY/ WALTER CAMP/ MAXWELL TROPHY

Brady Quinn SR Notre Dame
Adrian Peterson JR Oklahoma
Chris Leak SR Florida
Marshawn Lynch JR California
Kenneth Darby SR Alabama
Dwayne Jarrett JR USC
Jeff Samardzija SR Notre Dame
Troy Smith SR Ohio State
Kenny Irons SR Auburn
Kyle Wright JR Miami
Earl Bennett SO Vanderbilt
Chad Henne JR Michigan
Calvin Johnson JR Georgia Tech
Tyrell Sutton SO Northwestern
Garrett Wolfe SR Northern Illinois
Sidney Rice SO South Carolina
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU
Drew Tate SR Iowa
Yvenson Bernard JR Oregon St.
Darren McFadden SO Arkansas
Tyrone Moss SR Miami

★ OUTLAND TROPHY/ LOMBARDI AWARD

(Outstanding Lineman)
Chris Long JR Virginia
Paul Posluszny SR Penn State
Desmond Bishop SR California
LaMarr Woodley SR Michigan
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi
Sam Baker JR USC
Lawrence Jackson JR USC
Kevin Brown JR UCLA
C.J. Ah You SR Oklahoma
Ken Iwebema JR Iowa
Justin Blalock SR Texas
Brandon Mebane SR California
Arron Sears SR Tennessee
Victor Abiamiri SR Notre Dame
Mkristo Bruce SR Washington St.
Buster Davis SR Florida State
Nu'u Tafisi SR California
Quentin Moses SR Georgia
Ryan Kalil SR USC
Baraka Atkins SR Miami
Clark Harris SR Rutgers
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma
Keith Rivers JR USC
Anthony Waters SR Clemson
Mark Fenton SR Colorado
Brandon Siler JR Florida
Rob Caldwell SR Navy
Dedrick Harrington SR Missouri
Greg Olsen JR Miami
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh
Dave Harris SR Michigan
Ameer Ismail SR Western Mich.

★ DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD

(Outstanding Quaterback)
Brady Quinn SR Notre Dame
Chris Leak SR Florida
Troy Smith SR Ohio State
Kyle Wright JR Miami
Chad Henne JR Michigan
JaMarcus Russell JR LSU
Drew Tate SR Iowa
Brian Brohm JR Louisville
Reggie Ball SR Georgia Tech
Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh
Trent Edwards SR Stanford
Drew Weatherford SO Florida St.

★ DOAK WALKER AWARD

(Outstanding Running Back)
Adrian Peterson JR Oklahoma
Marshawn Lynch JR California
Kenneth Darby SR Alabama
Kenny Irons SR Auburn
Tyrell Sutton SO Northwestern
Tyrone Moss SR Miami
Garrett Wolfe SR Northern Illinois
James Davis SO Clemson
Yvenson Bernard JR Oregon St.
Darren McFadden SO Arkansas
Thomas Brown JR Georgia
Jamaal Charles SO Texas
Mike Hart JR Michigan
Rafael Little JR Kentucky
Courtney Lewis SR Texas A&M
Chris Markey JR UCLA
Steve Slaton SO West Virginia

★ FRED BILETNIKOFF AWARD

(Outstanding Receiver)
Dwayne Jarrett JR USC
Jeff Samardzija SR Notre Dame
Earl Bennett SO Vanderbilt
Calvin Johnson JR Georgia Tech
Sidney Rice SO South Carolina
Jason Hill SR Washington State
Steve Smith SR USC
Chansi Stuckey SR Clemson
Jarrett Hicks SR Texas Tech
Aundrae Allison SR East Carolina
D.J. Hall JR Alabama
Joe Cowan SR UCLA
Dominique Zeigler SR Baylor
Michael Thomas SO Arizona
Ted Ginn Jr. JR Ohio State
Vincent Marshall JR Houston
Robert Johnson SR Texas Tech
Caleb Spencer SR Nevada
Michael Bumpus JR Wash. State
Dorien Bryant JR Purdue
Tony Pennyman SR Utah State

★ BEDNARIK AWARD/ NAGURSKI AWARD

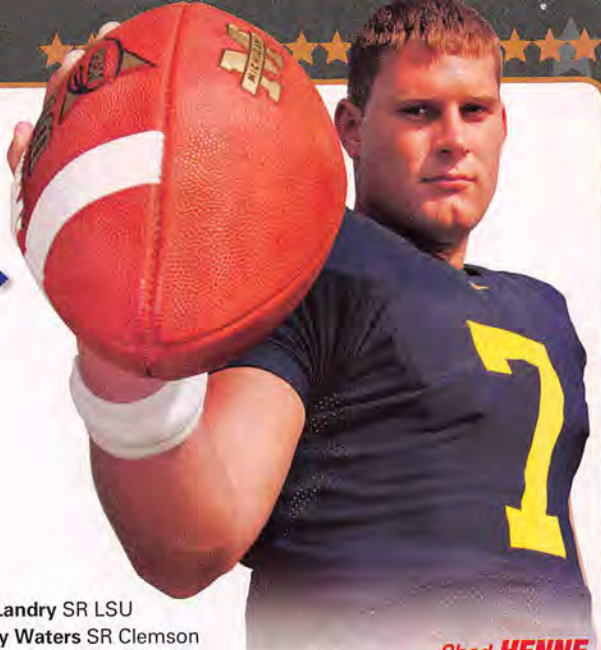
(Outstanding Defensive Player)
Paul Posluszny SR Penn State
Desmond Bishop SR California
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma
Keith Rivers JR USC
Brandon Meriweather SR Miami
Leon Hall SR Michigan
Darrelle Revis JR Pittsburgh
LaRon Landry SR LSU
Anthony Waters SR Clemson
Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia
Quentin Moses SR Georgia
Chris Long JR Virginia
LaMarr Woodley SR Michigan
Michael Griffin SR Texas
Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame
Buster Davis SR Florida State
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh
Dave Harris SR Michigan
J.D. Nelson SR Oregon
Daymeion Hughes SR California
Antoine Cason JR Arizona
Trey Brown JR UCLA
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska

★ DICK BUTKUS AWARD

(Outstanding Linebacker)
Paul Posluszny SR Penn State
Desmond Bishop SR California
Patrick Willis SR Mississippi
Rufus Alexander SR Oklahoma
Keith Rivers JR USC
Anthony Waters SR Clemson
Buster Davis SR Florida State
H.B. Blades SR Pittsburgh
Dave Harris SR Michigan
Oscar Lua SR USC
Brandon Siler JR Florida
Juwan Simpson SR Alabama
Dedrick Harrington SR Missouri
Brian Toal JR Boston College
Larry Edwards SR North Carolina
Xavier Adibi JR Virginia Tech
Keyunta Dawson SR Texas Tech
Mike Alston SR Toledo
Korey Hall SR Boise State
Sam Olajubutu SR Arkansas
Jon Abbate JR Wake Forest
Cameron Jensen SR BYU
Lawrence Timmons JR Florida St.
Vince Hall JR Virginia Tech
Will Herring SR Auburn

★ THORPE AWARD

(Outstanding Defensive Back)
Brandon Meriweather SR Miami
Leon Hall SR Michigan
Darrelle Revis JR Pittsburgh
LaRon Landry SR LSU
Marcus Hamilton SR Virginia
Tom Zbikowski SR Notre Dame
Michael Griffin SR Texas
J.D. Nelson SR Oregon
Daymeion Hughes SR California
Eric Wicks SR West Virginia
Josh Wilson SR Maryland
Antoine Cason JR Arizona
Trey Brown JR UCLA
Corey McKeon JR Nebraska
Tarell Brown SR Texas
Sabby Piscitelli SR Oregon State
C.J. Wilson SR Baylor
Wesley Smith SR Memphis
David Overstreet SR Missouri



Chad ***HENNE***
Heisman candidate

★ LOU GROZA AWARD

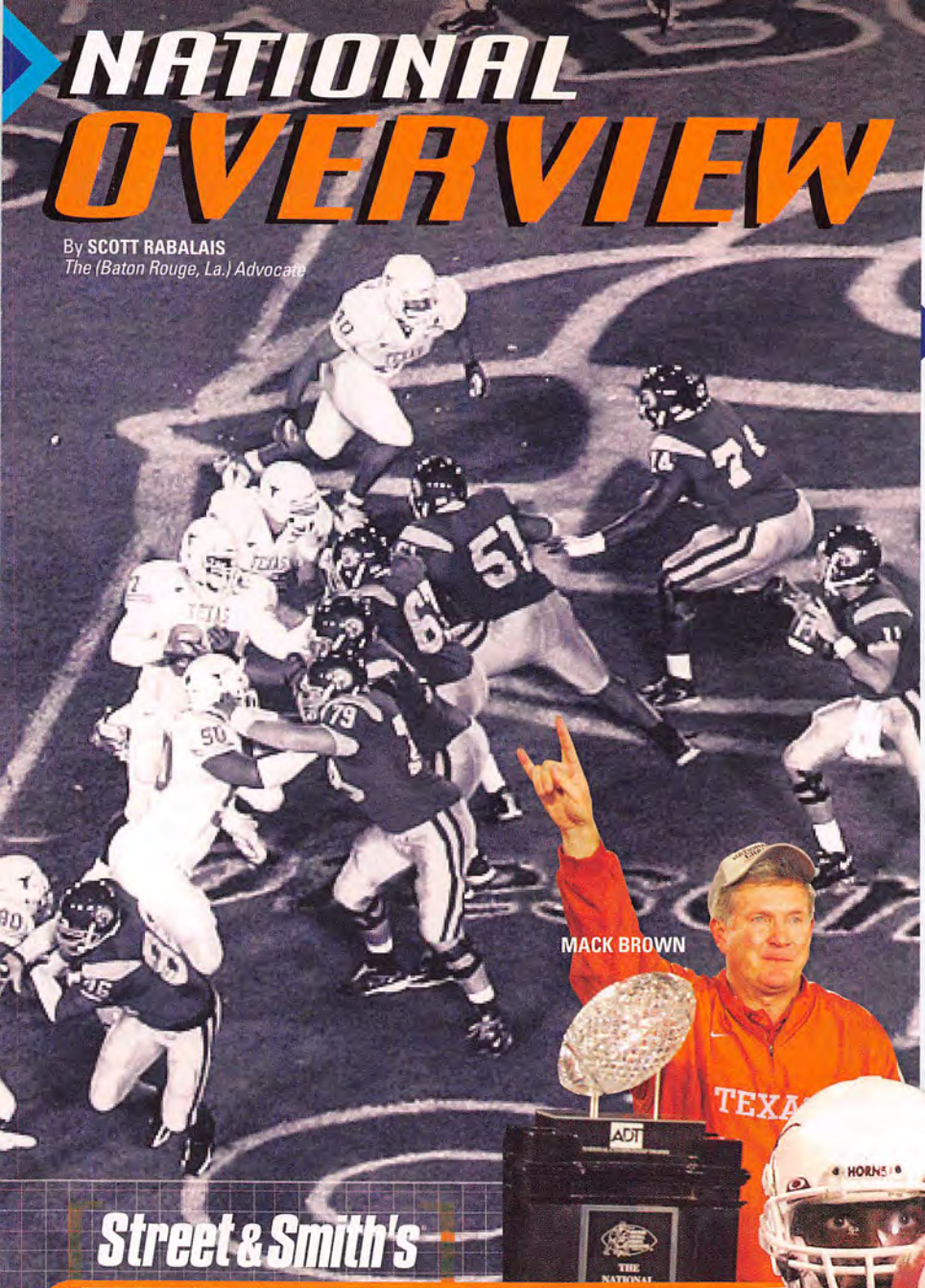
(Outstanding Kicker)
Mason Crosby SR Colorado
Alexis Serna JR Oregon State
Brandon Coutu JR Georgia
Brandon Pace SR Virginia Tech
Jad Dean SR Clemson
Darren McCaleb SR Southern Miss
Justin Medlock SR UCLA
Andrew Wellock SR Eastern Mich.
Mario Danelo JR USC
Garrett Rivas SR Michigan
Arthur Carmody JR Louisville
Kyle Schlicher SR Iowa
Mike Barrow SR Idaho
Reagan Schneider SR UTEP
Sam Swank SO Wake Forest

★ RAY GUY AWARD

(Outstanding Punter)
Daniel Sepulveda SR Baylor
Ken DeBauche JR Wisconsin
Jimmie Kaylor JR Colorado State
Justin Brantly SO Texas A&M
Chris Jackson SR LSU
Sean Douglas SR Washington
Adam Podlesh SR Maryland
Jeremy Kapinos SR Penn State
Kyle Tucker JR Kansas
Brandon Fields SR Michigan St.
John Deraney SR N.C. State
Michael Gibson SR Memphis

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

By **SCOTT RABALAIS**
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate



MACK BROWN

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Yet another in the long line of 'tweaks' to the BCS is set to debut next January, but you're going to have to look real hard to find real change.

In January, the Bowl Championship Series will unveil its new championship bowl game.

It's a bowl, but not really a bowl.

It's a championship game, but not really a championship game.

The 2006 season is either, depending on your point of view, the beginning of a brave new world or merely the continuation of the same old tired system in college football.

And yet, no matter which camp you occupy as a college football fan—whether you're in the pro-bowl camp or are a playoff protagonist—it will be played, and is sure to be a grand affair that will take its place alongside the Final Four and the Super Bowl among the year's biggest sports events.

The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl will take place Jan. 1 at Cardinals Stadium, the Arizona Cardinals' new 73,000-seat, retractable-roof facility in Glendale, just north of Phoenix.

The inaugural BCS Championship Game will be contested Jan. 8, the first of what has been called the "double-hosting" format.

A college championship game in an NFL franchise's new stadium is likely to be the closest the college game gets to a playoff for the foreseeable future. The new contract between the BCS and its new television partner, FOX, calls for the network to broadcast three of the bowl games—the Fiesta, Sugar and Orange bowls—and the subsequent BCS Championship Game

Street & Smith's TOP 25

1	OHIO STATE	11	FLORIDA STATE		
2	WEST VIRGINIA	12	MICHIGAN		
3	TEXAS	13	LOUISVILLE		
4	NOTRE DAME	14	MIAMI		
5	FLORIDA	15	VIRGINIA TECH		
6	CALIFORNIA	16	ARIZONA STATE	21	IOWA
7	USC	17	NEBRASKA	22	TEXAS TECH
8	AUBURN	18	ALABAMA	23	CLEMSON
9	LSU	19	GEORGIA	24	OREGON
10	OKLAHOMA	20	PENN STATE	25	TCU

LIMAS SWEED

"You got me the money every week!" *Jim Baranowski, Fayetteville AK*

"Your advice made me rich this year." *Rags Madison, La Jolla CA*

"I never made that much money before." *Paul Cifaldi, Myrtle Beach SC*

FOOTBALL IQ TEST

For guys serious about making money

How did you do last year?

- ❑ Did you win the pre-season? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win September? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win most weeks? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you hit 70% on your top games? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win most Monday Nights? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win most of your parlays? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win the Bowls and Playoffs? ☑ We Did!

And when it was all over...

- ❑ Did you make a profit? ☑ We Did!

Did You Win In August And September Like We Did?

A18	Saints (+3) Patriots	37-27	W
A19	Jets (-2) Vikings	28-21	W
A20	Eagles (+3) Ravens	20-14	W
A25	Falcons/Jaguars↓ 39	23/7	W
A26	Bears (+3) Bills	16-12	W
S 3	Notre Dame (+3) Pitt	42-21	W
S10	Iowa St (+9) Iowa	23-3	W
S11	Chiefs (-3) Jets	27-7	W
S12	Falcons (+1) Eagles	14-10	W
S16	Houston (+12) UTEP	41-44	W
S17	Mich St(+6) Notre Dame	44-41	W

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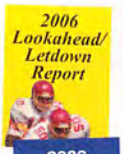

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each bowl will play host to in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The Rose Bowl recently signed its own separate TV deal to remain on ABC, which had been the exclusive home of the BCS in the previous contract.

Just how this all will work out remains to be seen, even by the people running the BCS show.

"We don't know what the double-hosting format is going to be like," says SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who begins a two-year run this year as the BCS supervisor or, as he puts it, it's his "turn in the box."

"It's going to be interesting to see, not only logistically but how the public accepts it, how the fans accept it," Slive says. "Because it is brand new."

The new format means 10 teams, not eight, will get a big slice of the highly lucrative BCS pie. Conferences will continue to be limited to two teams each, opening up more potential slots for conferences like the Mountain West, Conference USA and Mid-American.

The other major component of the BCS equation—the formula for determining the two teams that will play for the title—will remain virtually unchanged after a major overhaul going into the 2005 season.

The same could be said for college football's system for determining its mythical national champion.

There will be no 16-team playoff. No football version of a Final Four. Just two teams vying for the championship.

Meanwhile, the power brokers in college football will be crossing their collective fingers in hopes that it will work, while fans, pundits and naysayers across the nation hope it fails to satisfy and leads to a true playoff.

But, if Slive is to be believed, don't hold your breath waiting for a new championship model.

"In the final analysis," Slive says, "this relates to the academic mission of our institutions. The bowl season is important to us. The regular season is important to us. But I'm certainly going to be open-minded as to the future."

The immediate future of the BCS is virtually a closed book. It lies in Phoenix, New Orleans, Miami and Pasadena, a four-year test to see if the latest way of determining college football's national champion is indeed the most palatable way so far.

"It's going to be interesting to see, not only logistically but how the public accepts it, how the fans accept it. Because it is brand new."

—Mike Slive, SEC commissioner and BCS supervisor

A HOT SUMMER IN MICHIGAN

SMITH

Coaches are often never more than one loss away from falling out of favor with their fan base. Here are five coaches who may not want to do a Google search for www.fire(yournamehere).com, starting with the men who work in Ann Arbor and East Lansing:

▶ ***Lloyd Carr, Michigan:*** A dismal (by Michigan standards) 7-5 season was all the ammo the anti-Carr crowd needed to prove to the rest of world that this isn't Bo Schembechler's program anymore. A 1-4 record against Ohio State counterpart Jim Tressel is a sure way to put your job security on the endangered-species list as well. Just ask former OSU Coach John Cooper.

▶ ***John L. Smith, Michigan State:*** An 18-18 mark in three seasons isn't going to keep the Spartan faithful from looking for the next Nick Saban, unless John L. can produce some more wins pronto.

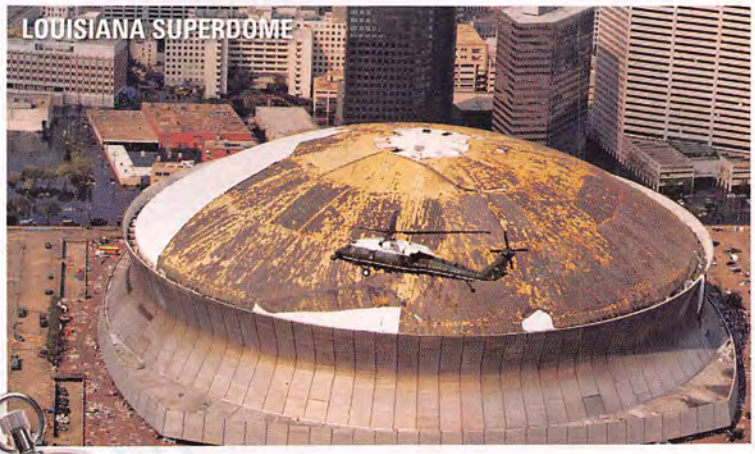
▶ ***Larry Coker, Miami:*** The storm is building in south Florida over lackluster, back-to-back 9-3 seasons, the last ending with a 40-3 implosion against LSU in the Peach Bowl. Coker did the "shake-up-the-staff" thing after returning from Atlanta. Now there's no one else to walk the plank into Biscayne Bay except the head man himself.

▶ ***Rich Brooks, Kentucky:*** With a 9-25 record at Kentucky, a 100-134-4 record in college overall—plus a 13-19 two-year stint with the St. Louis Rams—it's hard to figure out how the 65-year-old Brooks is going to get this thing turned around in the hyper-competitive SEC.

▶ ***Bill Doba, Washington State:*** After going 10-3 in 2003, Doba's Cougars have tanked the last two years, winning one less game combined than they did in his first season. One more sub-.500 season and Doba could be looking over his shoulder at former boss Mike Price riding back into the picture.

CARR

COKER



THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL

▶ Tulane will have played 14 straight games away from the Louisiana Superdome before it plays its first true "home" game Sept. 30 against SMU. The Green Wave's last taste of home-cooking was Dec. 4, 2004, against Louisville. Then the team spent all of last season on the road after fleeing New Orleans in advance of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on Aug. 29. The Wave will play their first three games on the road—Houston on Sept. 9, Mississippi State Sept. 16 and LSU Sept. 23—the latter date being the first of a 10-game series that will renew a longtime rivalry on an annual basis for the first time since 1994.

▶ Not only did Tulane players from New Orleans experience losses from the hurricane, but elsewhere along the Gulf Coast as well. Katrina destroyed the hometown of sophomore linebacker Jordan Ellis in Pass Christian, Miss., near where Katrina's eye came ashore. Junior wide receiver Kenneth Guidroz lost his home in Port Sulphur, La., to Hurricane Rita, which hit the southwest corner of Louisiana and southeast Texas in September.

▶ With the insurance industry under heavy criticism for its response to Hurricane Katrina, Allstate came to the Sugar Bowl's rescue in March. The insurance giant is now the game's title sponsor, succeeding Nokia, which had been the "Sugar daddy" the previous 12 years. The Allstate Sugar Bowl returns to New Orleans and the Louisiana Superdome after an unprecedented move to Atlanta's Georgia Dome for last January's game.

▶ Notre Dame safety Tom Zbikowski was to make his pro boxing debut in June at New York's Madison Square Garden. Zbikowski, who has some 90 amateur bouts under his belt, had to receive special permission from the NCAA to keep his amateur status in football while fighting professionally.

▶ The Peach Bowl has been around since 1968, but while the bowl will go on, the name will not. The Peach Bowl officially becomes the Chick-fil-A Bowl this year, taking on the name of the title sponsor it's had since 1997.

▶ Birmingham, the self-proclaimed "Football Capital of the South," is getting back into the bowl business. The Birmingham Bowl will be played between teams from Conference USA and the Big East or Mid-American conferences at Legion Field, which was once home to the Hall-of-Fame Bowl from 1977 to 1985 before it moved to Tampa and eventually became the Outback Bowl. Other cities entering the bowl business for this season are Albuquerque (Mountain West vs. Western Athletic) and Toronto (Big East vs. MAC).

▶ As of May, the Houston Bowl had still not made its full payments to the Big 12 and Mountain West conferences in the wake of TCU's 27-24 win over Iowa State last year. Bowl organizers insist they are still planning to play the game in December.

ZBIKOWSKI

LET'S GO RETRO

A lot of guys with the talent possessed by these five would have been snapped up in April's NFL Draft. Instead, they came back to make their respective teams that much more formidable:

▶ ***Adrian Peterson, RB, Oklahoma:*** Yes, he's only a junior, but hasn't he been in Norman for six years now? If the Sooners are good enough to get back into the national-championship picture, it'll be because Peterson is running down the competition.

▶ ***Brady Quinn, QB, Notre Dame:*** Irish eyes will be glued to every snap taken this fall by the mighty Quinn, who may be the top QB in the country and a potential top-five NFL pick.

▶ ***Dwayne Jarrett, WR, USC:*** He's ready for his close-up, Mr. Carroll. With Bush and Leinart gone from Hollywood, this is Jarrett's season to get his name above the title and his chance to direct. If you need him, he'll be in his trailer behind the L.A. Coliseum.

▶ ***Marshawn Lynch, RB, California:*** OK, maybe Lynch isn't the "biggest" thing on the West Coast at 5-11, but his numbers from 2005 speak volumes: 1,281 rushing yards, 6.4-yard average, 10 TDs.

▶ ***Patrick Willis, LB, Ole Miss:*** This year's nominee for "The Best Player You've Never Heard Of." He led Division I in sacks last year with nine and the SEC in tackles with 12.8 per game.

2006 Street & Smith's TOP 25

1 OHIO STATE (10-2 in 2005)

Texas' road to the national title started with a win at Ohio State. The reverse is true this year: Win in Austin Sept. 9 and the Buckeyes could be on their way. Troy Smith, Ted Ginn Jr. and Antonio Pittman are special talents, but the defense has to grow up quickly.

2 WEST VIRGINIA (11-1)

You need four things to win the national championship: talent, coaching, the right schedule and luck. The Mountaineers have the first three. With QB Pat White running Rich Rodriguez's point-a-minute offense and running back Steve Slaton around to gain the tough yards, West Virginia could be unbeaten come January.

3 TEXAS (13-0)

Everybody's No. 1 if Vince Young had returned, the Longhorns are hardly short-handed without him. This is still a talented team, though Bevo has zero experience at QB. Colt McCoy doesn't have to be Vince; just keep the mistakes to a minimum and let the supporting cast pile up the wins.

4 NOTRE DAME (9-3)

Guarded optimism about the Charlie Weis era has given way to full-blown national-title hysteria. Reasons to hyper-ventilate: Heisman candidate QB Brady Quinn, wideout Jeff Samardzija and running back Darius Walker. Reasons to worry: A porous pass defense must improve and Notre Dame needs to actually win a bowl to earn its first title since 1988.

5 FLORIDA (9-3)

Year Two was when Urban Meyer's programs took off at Bowling Green and Utah, so expectations are high in Gainesville this season. So are the misgivings, since Meyer's spread offense wasn't a smooth-running machine in 2005. Senior QB Chris Leak should know the system by now and the Gators should play for the SEC crown.

6 CALIFORNIA (8-4)

Finally, a Pac-10 offense to fear as much as USC's. If California gets the kind of play it did from QB Steve Levy late last season, watch out. The Bears also possess one of the nation's top rushing tandems in Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett. The schedule, pardon the pun, is a "Bear."

7 USC (12-1)

The Trojans were a fourth-down stop away from the national title last year. They're farther away without Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, but not much. Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith are now the offensive stars, but who will be throwing them the ball?

8 AUBURN (9-3)

Remember 2004, when Auburn was 13-0 but was ranked too low to play for the BCS championship? It could happen again. The Tigers have steely ability on both sides with brothers Kenny and David Irons at running back and corner, respectively, along with QB Brandon Cox. Auburn is good, but will it get enough love in the polls?

9 LSU (11-2)

The Tigers have the talent—perhaps too much at QB with JaMarcus Russell, Matt Flynn and Ryan Perrilloux—worthy of a national-championship contender. The problems are restocking both lines and a rugged road schedule (Auburn, Florida, Tennessee and Arkansas). Still, with a break or two, this could be 2003 all over again.

10 OKLAHOMA (8-4)

For once, the Sooners open this season in the Longhorns' shadow. But Oklahoma may not be in anyone's wake for very long. The Sooners can go as far as Adrian Peterson can run, which could be all the way to the Big 12 title and the Heisman Trophy. Quarterback Rhett Bomar must improve.

11 FLORIDA STATE (8-5)

The 2005 campaign was an off one by Seminole standards, but winning the ACC title game over Virginia Tech and playing Penn State to a near-draw in the Orange Bowl could have been the sign of brighter days. The offense, led by QB Drew Weatherford and running back Lorenzo Booker, is potent, but the defense must improve.

12 MICHIGAN (7-5)

The Wolverines gave "underachieving" a new meaning in Ann Arbor last year: no Big Ten title, no win over Ohio State, no bowl victory. This year, the offense, with QB Chad Henne, running back Michael Hart and receiver Mario Manningham, should score points aplenty. The defense, however, is too shaky to win the Big Ten—or at Ohio State.

13 LOUISVILLE (9-3)

If the Cardinals look at West Virginia and say, "Why not us?" it's hard to argue. Running back Michael Bush said no to the NFL Draft, QB Brian Brohm is a mega-talent and wideout Mario Urrutia is ready to take over. Louisville gets two chances to make a mark with Miami and West Virginia at home.

14 MIAMI (9-3)

Last time out the Hurricanes were crushed 40-3 by LSU in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Clearly, the 'Canes didn't want to be there, but where is this program? Not a national-title contender, but not an also-ran either. Quarterback Kyle Wright returns to lead a revamped offense, and the defense will still be ultra quick.

15 VIRGINIA TECH (11-2)

If the Hokies can find themselves a dependable quarterback to replace Marcus Vick, they could very well find themselves back in the ACC Championship Game. The receiving corps is deep and the defense should be able to weather the loss of Jimmy

Williams and Darryl Tapp well enough to win the ACC Coastal Division.

16 ARIZONA STATE (7-5)

If Dirk Koetter can decide who will be his quarterback (Rudy Carpenter or Sam Keller), this offense will take off. Zach Miller may be the nation's best tight end, while running backs Keegan Herring and Rudy Burgess provide great balance. Stopping other offenses is the key, as ASU allowed nearly 300 yards passing per game last year.

17 NEBRASKA (8-4)

Maybe the Cornhuskers aren't ready for world domination again just yet, but they are the team to beat in the Big 12 North. The Zac Taylor-to-Nate Swift combo will light up opposing defenses. A Sept. 16 game at USC will be a litmus test for how far this program has come—or has to go.

18 ALABAMA (10-2)

Not bad, just not quite what it was last year. Running back Kenneth Darby shoulders the load, while QB John Parker Wilson gets used to SEC defenses. Speaking of defenses, this will still be one of the SEC's best. But beating out LSU and Auburn to win the SEC West would be a major upset.

19 GEORGIA (10-3)

Georgia was supposed to go to the Dawgs in 2005 … and won the SEC. OK, so Georgia drops off this year—not in talent, but experience. Mark Richt is almost as skilled at reloading as his former boss, Bobby Bowden, so don't be surprised if the Bulldogs are in the SEC title game again.

20 PENN STATE (11-1)

All together now: "We will never doubt Joe Paterno again!" Still, repeating 2005's mega-success will be difficult, even with the return of superstar linebacker Paul Posluszny. Quarterback Anthony Morelli has some big cleats to fill replacing Michael Robinson, and the road schedule (Notre Dame, Ohio State, Minnesota, Purdue and Wisconsin) is hellish.

21 IOWA (7-5)

Circle Sept. 30 on the Big Ten calendar. If the Hawkeyes can upset Ohio State in Iowa City on that Saturday, it could propel them to the Rose Bowl. Drew Tate is a quicksilver talent at quarterback, and Albert Young should have no problem rushing for 1,000 yards in a 12-game season.

22 TEXAS TECH (9-3)

Graham Harrell. Get used to the name. He'll be the latest Texas Tech gunslinger to throw for miles and miles every Saturday. But the Red Raiders are more than just a gaudy aerial arsenal. This year, the defense appears good enough to keep Tech in the game with anyone on its schedule.

23 CLEMSON (8-4)

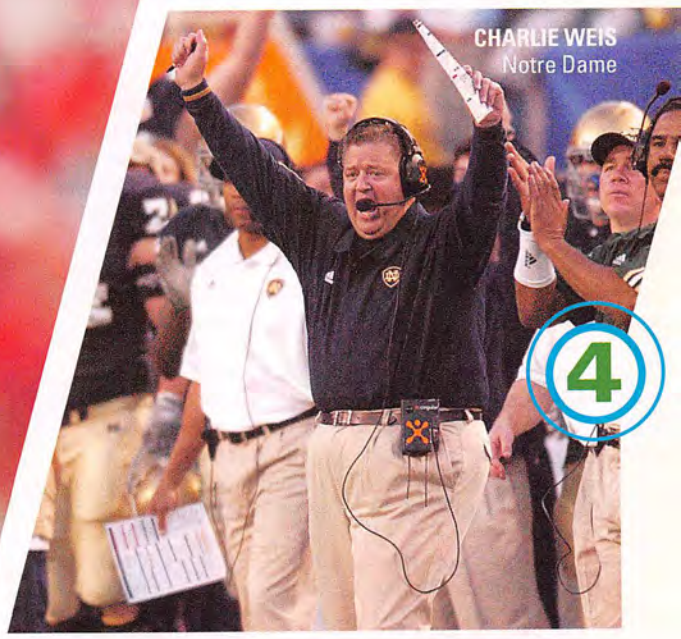
If you believe momentum carries over from one season to the next, Clemson could be your pick in the ACC's Atlantic Division. The Tigers won six of their last seven in 2005, and even though veteran QB Charlie Whitehurst is gone, running back James Davis returns to pile up the tough yards.

24 OREGON (10-2)

The Ducks were a surprise in 2005, especially after the loss of senior QB Kellen Clemens to a broken fibula in late October. Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf are back behind center, as is running back Jonathan Stewart and a promising group of wide receivers. The defense needs new playmakers if Oregon is to hang in the Pac-10 race again.

25 TCU (11-1)

After the Longhorns, the best team in Texas last year was … TCU? Believe it. The Horned Frogs are building a formidable program in Fort Worth. With QB Jeff Ballard, running back Aaron Brown and a nice cross section of last year's defense returning, a BCS bowl berth isn't out of the question.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HARRY CABLUCK/AP; WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; DENNIS HOBBINS; JOE ROBBINS

Question Time with ...

Bobby Bowden

At 76, the legendary and unretiring Florida State coach talks family, a special friend, the BCS—and 'Wide Right.'

Even at age 76, Division I college football's winningest coach doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

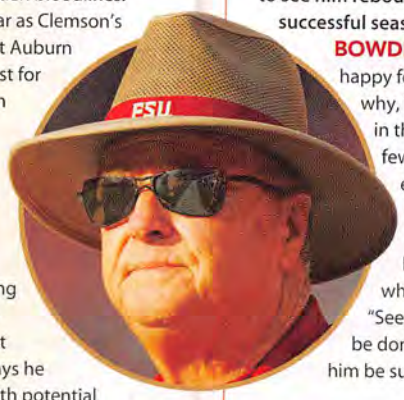
Entering his 31st season at Florida State, Bobby Bowden has 359 career victories, five ahead of his good friend Joe Paterno. The two coaching legends squared off in January's Orange Bowl, which Penn State won in triple overtime—placing Paterno two wins ahead of Bowden as the leader of that category.

But that's one of the few statistics in which Bowden comes in second. Since becoming the Florida State coach in 1976, he has won two national championships (1993 and 1999), 12 out of the last 14 ACC titles and has more victories at FSU than the previous seven Seminole coaches combined. Bowden also holds the distinction as the only coach whose team finished ranked in the top five for 14 consecutive seasons (1987-2000). He has also seen 162 of his players drafted by the NFL—including four first-round picks this year. And in May, it was announced that Bowden would be among the 2006 inductees to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Bowden grew up in Birmingham and spent a semester as a freshman quarterback with the Crimson Tide. But he missed home and his high school sweetheart, so he moved back and married Ann Estock (his wife of 57 years now). The couple attended Howard College (now Samford University), where Bowden played for four years and later became head coach (1959).

After four seasons at Samford, Bowden quickly moved up the coaching ranks. He was the wide receivers coach at Florida State from 1963-65 and offensive coordinator at West Virginia from 1966-69. The Mountaineers named him head coach the next year, and Bowden spent five seasons in Morgantown before FSU hired him back.

Of course, football runs deep in the Bowden bloodlines. Tommy Bowden is beginning his eighth year as Clemson's head coach, while Terry Bowden coached at Auburn and is now a national college football analyst for ABC Sports. Jeff, the youngest son, has been with the Seminoles' coaching staff for the last 14 seasons and is currently the offensive coordinator.



As college football has evolved through the years, Bowden has stayed the same. While some coaches are extremely vocal with their players, the closest thing to cursing you'll ever hear Bowden say is "daggum," a word he uses so much in day-to-day life that he should have a trademark on it. And he says he still enjoys traveling to meet face-to-face with potential recruits as much as anything in his job, even in this technological age of recruiting via the Internet and text messaging.

Shortly before embarking on his annual booster tour around Florida, Bowden spoke with *Street & Smith's* Staff Writer Matt McKenzie on topics as varied as criticism of his son, Jeff; whether collegiate athletes should be compensated; and just what a summer vacation is like with the football-crazed Bowden clan.

S&S: Does the grind of being a college football coach ever get old for you? The recruiting, going on the booster tours, talking to the media?

BOWDEN: That's a good question. It hadn't yet. I'm the only thing that's getting old these days (laughs). You've got to have the desire. Right now, I've got great desire. I'd much rather be a head football coach than retire.

S&S: How do you manage such a rigorous job in your 70s?

BOWDEN: Well, there's a couple things that have to happen. First, you can't lose your health. As a college football coach, you go out all over the field and have got to keep up with the players. Then you hire good coaches who know what's going on. They can keep you in tune with what's going on. You know, head coaches are kind of like figureheads. They keep everybody in line and keep morale up. And he lets the coaches he's hired do their work.

S&S: Last year, you were able to face off in the Orange Bowl against your old friend, Joe Paterno. With all of the heat he's received in the last few years at Penn State, were you pleased to see him rebound and have such a successful season?

BOWDEN: Oh, I was very happy for him. You can see why, because we're following in the same path. The last few years, I've won just eight or nine games (a season), which has made some people not happy. To see Joe do what he did makes me say, "See, it's not over yet. It can be done." But it's great to see him be successful.

S&S: When it's all said and done, is it important for you to beat him for the NCAA's all-time record in most coaching victories?

BOWDEN: Well, it's more of a "nice if it happens" deal. If Joe Paterno was somebody I couldn't stand—and I don't know if I'm that way with anybody—then it would be a dog-eat-dog competition. But we're not like that. If I don't win, I hope he does, and I'm sure he feels the same way. And to be honest, there ain't nobody behind us in the next 30 years that's going to catch us. But if I don't (get the record), I'm not going to lose sleep over it.

S&S: How much does the criticism of your son (Florida State Offensive Coordinator Jeff Bowden) bother you?

BOWDEN: It is kind of personal, because who can you trust more than your own son? That's the main thing I ask. But so much of it is unfair criticism. It's kind of natural. ... I had to fight the nepotism thing in the paper and we got off to a bad start once he got here. I think he's gained some ground after last year, but it is very tough. Other coaches that have hired their sons had to fight the same thing. Fans saying, "Who can we blame?" People always look for someone.

S&S: What are your thoughts on the current Bowl Championship Series system?

BOWDEN: I think it's about as good as we're going to get. They keep tampering with it every year, trying to make it better. Personally, I could live with the (*Associated Press*) vote. The first 40 to 45 years I was coaching, you went with the AP or coaches' vote or what used to be called the UPI vote. You could win a national championship just off that. But, as in any system, there's going to be flaws no matter what.

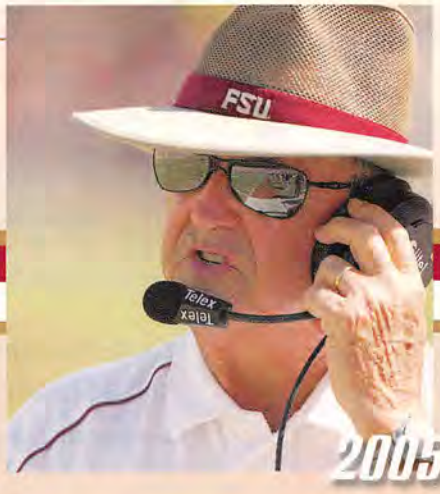
It's funny, the thing that concerned me the most (about the BCS) is I thought, one of these days, one division (winner in a conference) is going to be 7-4 and beat an 11-0 team (to go to a BCS bowl). Then it happened with us last year (when the 7-4 Seminoles defeated a 10-1 Virginia Tech team for the ACC championship and an Orange Bowl berth). It wasn't expected, but also none of the teams that beat us (during the regular season) made it to a BCS bowl. It worked out for us, but I would have hated to be a Virginia Tech fan.

S&S: Will there ever be a playoff in Division I NCAA football?

BOWDEN: We won't see it during my lifetime. Football is not like basketball, where you play three times a week. You can't play but once a week, and then you

1976

1991



2005

have injuries. Maybe we might have a four-game playoff, but you better be careful, because then the No. 5 team would be left out. That's no good.

S&S: How has your young offense matured over last season?

BOWDEN: I hope it's matured; usually we're confident every year. It all starts with our offensive line, where we had some injuries (last season). If you can't do it up front, I don't care what kind of players you have—you're not going to be successful. The thing is with us, in the last five years, we've had to start two freshman quarterbacks (Chris Rix and current QB Drew Weatherford). We've never done that before. Charlie Ward was a redshirt sophomore. Chris Weinke was a sophomore, even though he was 26. Going back to Thad Busby, Peter Tom Willis—all of them (had experience).

S&S: With so much football running in the family, describe a typical Bowden family vacation.

BOWDEN: It takes place the last week in June and first week in July (in Panama City, Fla.). It started off with just me and Ann and six kids. Then it grew to our kids' husbands and wives. Now, it's all of us, plus 21 grandchildren. We're together and we play a lot of golf, and at the (dinner) table, there's no way we can talk without bringing up football. It always comes up. Of course, when Tommy and I talk, we both keep little favorite secrets than can't be revealed. Even the girls like to talk football. I'll bet you, when we're down there, one-third of our conversation is about football.

S&S: How much has having Defensive Coordinator Mickey Andrews by your side for the last 20-plus years meant to your team's success?

BOWDEN: It's a must to have someone like that. Most head coaches will get involved on just one side of the ball. They'll spend all the time on defense and leave the offense alone, or work with the offense rather than the defense. That's kind of what I do; I leave him alone (on defense). He's had excellent success and a great group of players to work with. Mickey's as valuable a part to the program as I am.

S&S: After you arrived at Florida State from West Virginia, did you ever see yourself taking another job, perhaps in the pros?

BOWDEN: You know, when I came here back in 1976, I came with the idea of not staying here. I thought I'd be here three or four years, then go to either Alabama or Auburn in order to be closer to home. And I was actually offered those jobs (at different times). As for (the NFL), I've had several communications with pro clubs, and I'm sure I could have accepted one. But I would just rather work with college-age kids—I feel I can have more influence over them than a pro athlete.

S&S: Should college athletes be paid?

BOWDEN: In the last few years or so, I've been in favor of giving them some money, but not like a pro athlete. When I finished playing (at Howard College) in 1952, you were given room and board, book fees and $15 for laundry money. Now, back then, that might be like $100 today and it didn't cost $15 to do your laundry.

I have recommended it to the NCAA to give these players $75 to $100 a month, because they're so tied up with football, they can't make any money (at a job). They need some to go on a date or get gas. Now, I'm not talking $2,000 a month—remember, they're already getting free education and housing. But they need something.

S&S: This is the second straight year you'll open the season on Labor Day night against Miami. Is it fair to begin the year with one of your toughest opponents?

BOWDEN: Here's the way we feel about it. It's Labor Day night, a date that if you don't get that game, everybody would be slobbering at the mouth to get it. It's on national TV, and you're two of the only teams playing that night. Of course, we're thinking, "Daggum, we don't want to open with Miami," but I'm sure they feel the same way about us.

If you look at the growth of our program, you used to never see any FSU merchandise in L.A., New York or Cleveland. Now you walk around (in those cities), and people can buy our stuff there.

It (exposure) also helps us sign so many kids. Take (running back) Lorenzo Booker, who's out of California. When we were recruiting him, I asked him, "Why would you even be interested in us?" He said, "Coach, I always wanted to be a Seminole."

(Defensive back) Myron Rolle was the same way. So was (tight end) Brandon Warren, who we signed this year. Here's a big kid out of Alcoa, Tenn., and you think "there ain't no way he's getting away from (the University of Tennessee)." But he said the same thing: "Coach, I've always wanted to be a Seminole."

That's where TV and media play a key role. You know, if we didn't grab the Labor Day night game, Florida would grab it, or USC, or Georgia would jump at the chance.

S&S: How often do you tire of hearing about the kicking saga at FSU? The phrases "Wide Right" and now even "Wide Left" have become pretty synonymous with the program.

BOWDEN: Isn't that funny? I was talking with Joe (Paterno) at a Nike convention, and he must have told me three times, "You know, y'all have played in more big games than any team in the country, and y'all are the unluckiest team." It's amazing how many games we've lost because of kicks. I don't know of any other series in the nation (besides Florida State and Miami) that's had the same scenario—missed field goal, missed field goal, missed field goal. But the tide turned a little last year.

The first one was in 1991, and it was wide right. Then the next one (in 1992), the same thing happened. Right there, you just say, "Oh my goodness." Now remember, these were short field goals, not long. They were games we could have won.

S&S: Is it important to you to win one more national championship before retiring?

BOWDEN: Well, if I won one, I don't know if I'd be ready to hang it up, but the way it is nowadays, that's a stigma we have. Like the Super Bowl—if you don't win that thing, you ain't nothing. Pittsburgh wins it and they're a hero, meanwhile you have poor Seattle. Same thing happened with Texas. All of a sudden they're a dream, and everybody forgot (about USC). If you don't have (a national title), you get no credit. But I do want to win one more before I retire. I have a good staff and good health, so hopefully I don't have to retire anytime soon. But I want to keep my fans halfway happy (laughs).

S&S: When will you know it's time to retire?

BOWDEN: I always said if I lost too many games (in a season), I just couldn't stand it. However, I've been careful not to identify that number (laughs). If I thought my team looked futile, then I know it's time to get a young guy in here. But seeing what Joe did last year, it just shows you can't give up too soon, as long as you have your health.

ACC
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Jacoby Ford**, Clemson	*Most elusive RB*	**James Davis**, Clemson	*Top NFL prospect*	**Calvin Johnson**, WR, Georgia Tech
Best hands	**Calvin Johnson**, WR, Georgia Tech	*Best instincts*	**Vince Hall**, LB, Virginia Tech	*Top impact freshman*	**Myron Rolle**, S, Florida State
Best passing QB	**Drew Weatherford**, Florida State	*Best athlete*	**Calvin Johnson**, WR, Georgia Tech	*Hardest hitter*	**Buster Davis**, LB, Florida State
Best running QB	**Reggie Ball**, Georgia Tech	*Best under pressure*	**Matt Ryan**, QB, Boston College	*Biggest underachiever*	**Willie Williams**, LB, Miami

Predicted order of finish:

ATLANTIC

1. p. 21 STOCK: UP
2. p. 23 STOCK: UP
3. p. 25 STOCK: DOWN
4. p. 26 STOCK: STEADY
5. p. 27 STOCK: DOWN
6. p. 27 STOCK: UP

COASTAL

1. p. 28 STOCK: UP
2. p. 30 STOCK: DOWN
3. p. 32 STOCK: STEADY
4. p. 33 STOCK: DOWN
5. p. 34 STOCK: UP
6. p. 34 STOCK: STEADY

Goal of sending two teams to BCS should finally be realized this season

By **MIKE HARRIS** and **JEFF WHITE** *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*

This wasn't what the Atlantic Coast Conference had in mind when it expanded to 12 schools—a move many of the league's most prominent men's basketball coaches opposed—and created two divisions and a championship game for football.

The ACC's goal, besides gaining more exposure, money and power for the conference, was to send two teams to the Bowl Championship Series: the league champion and an at-large representative.

That seemed reasonable for a conference that includes perennial powers Miami, Florida State and Virginia Tech. But the ACC had to settle for one bid in 2005, and it didn't go to a national-title contender. The BCS spot went to a Florida State team that, after stumbling through the regular season, upset Virginia Tech in the inaugural ACC title game. The Seminoles finished 8-5 and ranked No. 23 after losing in three overtimes to Penn State in the Orange Bowl.

Last season wasn't a total loss for the ACC, which sent a league-record eight teams to bowls and had five teams in the final *Associated Press* poll, led by No. 7 Virginia Tech. Twelve ACC players were selected in the first round of the NFL Draft, including the No. 1 pick, N.C. State defensive end Mario Williams. Still, the conference hopes Year Two of its 12-team era goes better.

The ACC lost many of its brightest stars from 2005, including the offensive and defensive players of the year, Wake Forest tailback Chris Barclay and Maryland linebacker D'Qwell Jackson. Moreover, 10 ACC players who had college eligibility left opted to declare for April's NFL Draft, among them Maryland tight end Vernon Davis, Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick and N.C. State's Williams, all of whom probably would have been ACC Player-of-the-Year candidates in 2006. And that group doesn't include linebacker Ahmad Brooks, a former Butkus Award finalist who applied for the NFL's supplemental draft after Virginia Coach Al Groh dismissed him from the team during the offseason.

As was the case in 2005, Miami and Virginia Tech will battle for the Coastal Division title. In the Atlantic, the Bowdens figure to fight it out for the crown, with father Bobby's Florida State Seminoles trying to fend off the challenge of son Tommy's Clemson Tigers.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-ACC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Drew Weatherford, So., Florida State	DL	Chris Ellis, Jr., Virginia Tech
RB	Tyrone Moss, Sr., Miami	DL	Gaines Adams, Sr., Clemson
RB	James Davis, So., Clemson	DL	Baraka Atkins, Sr., Miami
OL	Josh Beekman, Sr., Boston College	DL	Chris Long, Jr., Virginia
OL	Roman Fry, Sr., Clemson	LB	Vince Hall, Jr., Virginia Tech
OL	Leroy Harris, Sr., N.C. State	LB	Buster Davis, Sr., Florida State
OL	Jared Gaither, So., Maryland	LB	Anthony Waters, Sr., Clemson
OL	Steve Vallos, Sr., Wake Forest	DB	John Talley, Sr., Duke
WR	Calvin Johnson, Jr., Georgia Tech	DB	Brandon Meriweather, Sr., Miami
WR	Chansi Stuckey, Sr., Clemson	DB	Marcus Hamilton, Sr., Virginia
TE	Greg Olsen, Jr., Miami	DB	Josh Wilson, Sr., Maryland
PK	Jad Dean, Sr., Clemson	P	Adam Podlesh, Sr., Maryland

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Can the post-expansion ACC meet its goal of sending two teams to the BCS?** Coming out of the ACC Championship Game, the conference probably will need to have two one-loss teams–or better.
2. **Can Florida State rejoin the nation's elite?** The 'Noles return a top-shelf quarterback in Drew Weatherford, but lost six starters on offense and seven on defense.
3. **Was Miami's '05 season an aberration, or are the 'Canes in decline?** Coach Larry Coker's record may be an impressive 53-9, but back-to-back 9-3 seasons have many Hurricanes fans in a foul mood.
4. **Can Virginia Tech survive the loss of nine NFL draft picks?** Don't count the Hokies out, even after such major personnel losses. Tech's defense should again be formidable.
5. **Can Maryland regain the swagger it showed in its first three seasons under Coach Ralph Friedgen?** After three years at his alma mater, Friedgen's record was 31-8. Since then, the Terrapins are 10-12 and haven't advanced to a bowl. Unless one of Maryland's QBs makes dramatic strides, there will be no return to glory this fall.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **FLORIDA STATE**: Safety Myron Rolle was rated by many as the nation's No. 1 recruit.
2. **CLEMSON**: Second straight impressive class for Tommy Bowden and staff.
3. **MIAMI**: Even short-handed, 'Canes coaches landed numerous blue-chippers.
4. **NORTH CAROLINA**: Best effort yet of the Bunting era in Chapel Hill.
5. **VIRGINIA TECH**: Like archrival Virginia, the Hokies struggled in-state.
6. **MARYLAND**: Penn State dominated recruiting in the Terrapins' back yard.
7. **BOSTON COLLEGE**: Another solid class for one of the nation's most stable programs.
8. **VIRGINIA**: A weak group academically, with at least four signees likely headed to prep school.
9. **N.C. STATE**: More Floridians than North Carolinians in this unheralded class.
10. **GEORGIA TECH**: Small class that lacks the star power of some of its predecessors in Atlanta.
11. **WAKE FOREST**: Tailbacks Josh Adams and Lucas Caparelli turned down offers from more prominent programs to sign with Wake.
12. **DUKE**: Will this be the class that leads the Blue Devils out of the Coastal Division cellar? Unlikely.

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 25 SELECTION

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Atlantic:
8-5	5-3

(lost to Penn State in the Orange Bowl, 26-23)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 4	@MIAMI (FL)	10-7
S. 9	Troy	
S. 16	Clemson	14-35
S. 23	Rice	
O. 5	@N.C. STATE	15-20
O. 14	@DUKE	55-24
O. 21	Boston College	28-17
O. 28	@MARYLAND	35-27
N. 4	Virginia	21-26
N. 11	Wake Forest	41-24
N. 18	Western Michigan	
N. 25	Florida	7-34

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The only notable non-conference game on the Seminoles' schedule could be a key to a BCS bid that doesn't involve winning the league title.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/22

OFFENSE		
QB	11	Drew Weatherford (6-3, 220, So.)
FB	32	Joe Surratt (6-1, 263, Jr.)
TB	28	Lorenzo Booker (5-11, 193, Sr.)
LT	75	Mario Henderson (6-7, 304, Sr.)
LG	68	Jacky Claude (6-4, 290, Jr.)
C	58	Dumaka Atkins (6-4, 310, So.)
RG	62	Cory Niblock (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	79	David Overmyer (6-5, 303, Jr.)
TE	45	Charlie Graham (6-3, 241, Fr.)
WR	81	De'Cody Fagg (6-3, 221, Jr.)
WR	5	Chris Davis (6-0, 180, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	98	Alex Boston (6-3, 264, Jr.)
NG	56	Kendrick Stewart (6-2, 271, Fr.)
DT	96	Andre Fluellen (6-4, 286, Jr.)
RE	92	Darrell Burston (6-2, 241, Jr.)
SLB	83	Lawrence Timmons (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	55	Derek Nicholson (6-2, 232, So.)
WLB	7	Buster Davis (5-11, 237, Sr.)
CB	15	Tony Carter (5-9, 160, So.)
CB	18	J.R. Bryant (6-1, 172, Jr.)
FS	8	Roger Williams (6-0, 200, Jr.)
RV	3	Myron Rolle (6-2, 218, Fr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	12	Gary Cismesia (5-11, 214, Jr.)
P	43	Graham Gano (6-1, 189, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Despite NFL losses, talented 'Noles may defend their 2005 ACC title

Color us crazy. We may well be.

The Seminoles lost a load from last year's ACC championship team. Only 10 starters are back, fewest among ACC teams. The first round of the NFL Draft showed just what kind of talent FSU is losing.

So what's the deal?

Well, FSU is still FSU. While the Seminoles haven't been as dominant nationally in the 2000s as they were earlier, they've won 12 of 14 ACC titles, including last year when they appeared about as non-championship-caliber as a team can for much of the late stages of the season. They used 27 freshmen last year and the talent is always going to be good.

What's back, while not a lot, is also very good.

Start with sophomore quarterback Drew Weatherford, who developed into a pretty strong player by the end of the season. He threw for 3,208 yards and 18 touchdowns and ran for three more. Only two FSU quarterbacks have thrown for more yards in a season. Weatherford had 10 games with at least 200 yards and three with at least 300. He became the first freshman to lead the ACC in total offense with an average of 244.6 yards per game.

Weatherford won the job last year in a competition with Xavier Lee, who was unable to challenge for the spot again in the spring because of injury. That leaves Weatherford as the man again, something the Seminoles don't see as a problem.

"If he can stay healthy, he has no negatives," FSU Coach Bobby Bowden says. "Drew studies the game, he loves the game, he's a team player and he is a natural-born leader."

Weatherford's big negative is that he did throw 18 interceptions last season. But experience ought to help that number come down—considerably, the Seminoles hope.

Senior tailback Lorenzo Booker has a 5.0 average per carry for his career and his 1,773 career yards are tops among returning backs in the league. Booker also caught 38 passes last season and he's a reason why returning starters' numbers can be misleading. He shared time with Leon Washington in 2005 and wasn't considered a starter.

Sharing the job this year will be sophomore Antone Smith, who averaged 5.2 yards for 36 carries last season as a true freshman. The Booker-Smith duo gives FSU another frightening set of backs.

"If Booker will work his tail off, I really think he can be an outstanding tailback," Bowden says. "Antone Smith is the same way."

Smith is also on the FSU track team, which helps because Bowden says "nothing is more important than speed."

Stadium: Doak Campbell Stadium (82,300)

Greg Carr, a 6-6 sophomore, averaged 20.6 yards per catch last season and caught an ACC-best nine touchdowns. Chris Davis returns after catching a team-high 51 passes for 666 yards and five touchdowns. Junior De'Cody Fagg is coming off a shoulder injury that limited him in spring drills. He caught 35 passes last season.

Senior guard Cory Niblock is one of three starters back on the line, joining junior guard Jacky Claude and junior tackle David Overmyer. That line took a beating last season, with Niblock being one of those lost to injury (knee). Mario Henderson moved into the starting lineup at left tackle late in the season and will be counted on heavily this year.

The defense is more of a question than the offense, particularly on the line, where end Kamerion Wimbley and noseguard Brodrick Bunkley are gone. They are just two of five FSU departures who had more than 20 career starts. Also gone are linebackers Ernie Sims and A.J. Nicholson.

Back on the defensive line are junior end Alex Boston and junior tackle Andre Fluellen.

"Fluellen showed last year that he could be the next dominator at defensive tackle," Bowden says.

Kendrick Stewart figures to be fun to watch at noseguard.

"Here's a guy who weighs 271 and can do back flips," says Bowden. "That catches your eye."

Senior linebacker Buster Davis is the most experienced defensive returnee. His 91 tackles were second best on the team last season. Lawrence Timmons is expected to move into Sims' spot.

"We thought our young talent was about as good as we've had there," Bowden says. "Buster Davis is the leader of that defense. He's played really good football the last two seasons and should be ready for a big year."

Sophomore cornerback Tony Carter is the lone returnee in the secondary. The freshman to watch is rover Myron Rolle, who enrolled early after being one of the nation's top recruits. Roger Williams, a junior, has experience at both safety slots and will take over at free safety. J.R. Bryant started six games at corner last season.

Junior kicker Gary Cismesia made six field goals of 40 yards or more last season. Graham Gano is the probable successor to Chris Hall at punter and may challenge Cismesia for the kicking job.

Head coach: Bobby Bowden, 31st year (286-75-4)
Career record: 359-107-4
Assistant coaches: Mickey Andrews (assoc. head coach/def. coord./secondary), Billy Sexton (asst. head coach/RBs), Jeff Bowden (off. coord./WRs), Jody Allen (def. ends), Daryl Dickey (QBs), Odell Haggins (def. tackles), Mark McHale (off. line), John Lilly (TEs/recruiting coord.), Kevin Steele (exec. head coach/LBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Myron Rolle**, DB, 6-2, 214 *Physical defender is a top student-athlete.*
2	**Marcus Ball**, LB, 6-0, 204 *Georgia product makes plays all over the field.*
3	**Marcus Sims**, LB, 6-0, 211 *Will he pick up where his brother left off?*
4	**Brandon Warren**, TE, 6-2, 230 *Well-rounded athlete could end up at linebacker.*
5	**Doug Thacker**, DL, 6-2, 275 *Undersized, but has everything else to play.*

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FSU	OPP
SCORING	376	286
Points Per Game	28.9	22.0
FIRST DOWNS	243	226
Rushing	67	77
Passing	156	119
Penalty	20	30
RUSHING YARDAGE	1222	1409
Yards gained rushing	1583	1962
Yards lost rushing	361	553
Rushing Attempts	376	492
Average Per Rush	3.2	2.9
Average Per Game	94	108.4
TDs Rushing	20	17
PASSING YARDAGE	3674	2611
Att-Comp-Int	526-303-19	404-239-12
Average Per Pass	7	6.5
Average Per Catch	12.1	10.9
Average Per Game	282.6	200.8
TDs Passing	21	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	4896	4020
Total Plays	902	896
Average Per Play	5.4	4.5
Average Per Game	376.6	309.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	44-885	59-1226
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	54-801	21-116
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-142	19-200
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.1	20.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.8	5.5
INT RETURN AVERAGE	11.8	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-8	25-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	114-1018	93-736
Average Per Game	78.3	56.6
PUNTS-YARDS	74-2859	95-3744
Average Per Punt	38.6	39.4
Net punt average	37.1	31.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:12	31:39
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/188	63/205
3rd-Down Pct	36%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/11	6/17
4th-Down Pct	36%	35%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-273	32-186
MISC YARDS	17	95
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	46	34
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-24	16-24
PAT-ATTEMPTS	43-44	30-31
ATTENDANCE	496343	300506
Games/Avg Per Game	6/82724	5/60101
Neutral Site Games		2/75261

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida State	82	77	90	120	7	376
Opponents	58	89	64	65	10	286

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Drew Weatherford

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	121.29	469-276-18	58.8	3208	18	246.8

Xavier Lee

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	129.90	57-27-1	47.4	466	3	66.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Lorenzo Booker	13	119	552	4.6	4	42.5
L. Washington	11	97	430	4.4	3	39.1
Antone Smith	9	36	188	5.2	3	20.9

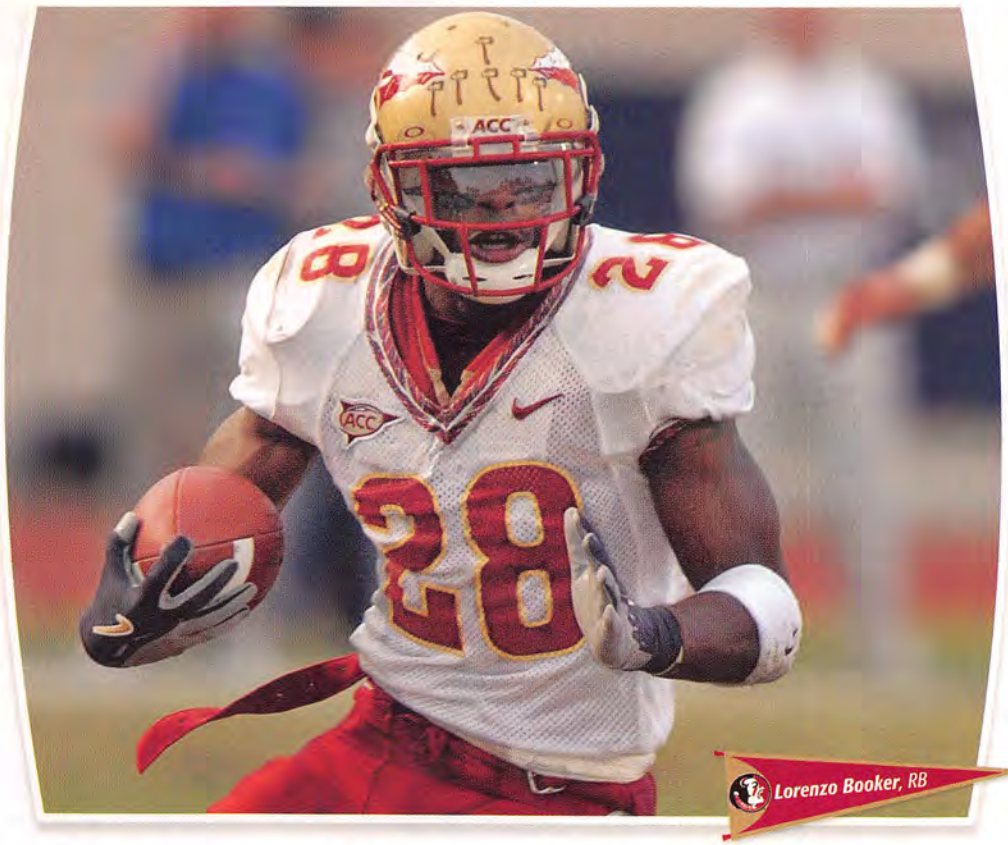
RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Davis	13	51	666	13.1	5	51.2
Willie Reid	11	50	634	12.7	1	57.6
Lorenzo Booker	13	38	329	8.7	2	25.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
A.J. Nicholson	12	53	47	100
Buster Davis	13	38	53	91
Pat Watkins	13	44	33	77

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Brodrick Bunkley	13	9.0	45
Kamerion Wimbley	11	7.5	56
Marcello Church	12	4.5	19

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Pat Watkins	3	34	11.3	0
Kyler Hall	3	38	12.7	0
Ernie Sims	2	3	1.5	0



Lorenzo Booker, RB

Willie Reid, who returned three punts for touchdowns last season, is gone. Tailback Smith and receiver Kenny O'Neal—like Smith, a member of the track team—will get a look as Reid's replacement.

Florida State will be helped by a schedule that features eight home games, though it opens with a difficult road trip to Miami.

"Although we have [only] 10 starters back, we play so many people that that's not a real big factor for us," Bowden says. "We may not have a lot of starters back, but we have a lot of experience coming back."

NEXT BIG THING

MYRON ROLLE, freshman cornerback

If football doesn't work out for Myron Rolle, it's a pretty sure bet he'll find success in the working world. But after some impressive early showings in spring practice, the 6-2, 218-pound defensive back shouldn't have anything to worry about.

Rolle's 64-yard interception for a touchdown was the highlight of Florida State's annual Garnet-and-Gold spring game, showing why he was ranked No. 1 overall on the majority of last year's recruiting classes.

"Well, he's raised his stock, but has he raised his stock enough to pass the guy in front of him? I don't know yet," Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden says. "But the thing he has shown us is that all we read must be true."

Rolle is an offensive coordinator's nightmare. He has the speed to keep up with receivers, along with the size (112 tackles as a high school senior) to punish ball-carriers. It's that perfect combination that resulted in 57 scholarship offers.

Off the field, his academics are equally exemplary. He had a perfect 4.0 grade-point average at the prestigious Hun School in Princeton, N.J., and scored a 1,340 on the SAT. Rolle plans to major in pre-med and wants to graduate in three years.

With a secondary that has just one starter returning this season, Rolle has a good chance to be an immediate starter, either at cornerback or as a rover. However he's needed, Rolle says he'll be ready.

"I don't want to sound cocky or anything, but I just always had confidence in my abilities to play at this level," Rolle says. "I was telling people earlier, all of the coaches that were recruiting me in high school told me I had good potential physically but that it was just the mental part that I would have to catch up with.

"That's why I have Coach (Defensive Coordinator Mickey) Andrews here to help me make this transition as easy as possible and get to that point where I can start making plays."

—Matt McKenzie

CLEMSON TIGERS

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 25 SELECTION

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Atlantic:
8-4	4-4

(beat Colorado in the Champs Sports Bowl, 19-10)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Florida Atlantic	
S.9	@BOSTON COLLEGE	13-16 (OT)
S.16	@FLORIDA STATE	35-14
S.23	North Carolina	
S.30	Louisiana Tech	
O.7	@WAKE FOREST	27-31
O.12	Temple*	37-7
O.21	Georgia Tech	9-10
O.26	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N.4	Maryland	28-24
N.11	North Carolina State	31-10
N.25	South Carolina	13-9

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The annual Bowden Bowl will probably mean a spot in the ACC title game for the winner.

** at Charlotte, N.C.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Will Proctor (6-2, 205, Sr.)
FB	41	Alex Pearson (6-2, 250, So.)
RB	1	James Davis (5-11, 210, So.)
LT	79	Barry Richardson (6-7, 335, Jr.)
LG	72	Roman Fry (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	62	Dustin Fry (6-3, 315, Sr.)
RG	63	Nathan Bennett (6-5, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Marion Dukes (6-4, 315, Sr.)
WR	80	Aaron Kelly (6-5, 180, So.)
WR	2	Chansi Stuckey (6-0, 185, Sr.)
WR	5	Rendrick Taylor (6-1, 225, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	94	Phillip Merling (6-5, 275, So.)
NG	44	Donnell Clark (6-3, 265, Sr.)
DT	91	Rashaad Jackson (6-3, 270, So.)
DE	93	Gaines Adams (6-5, 265, Sr.)
SLB	20	Tramaine Billie (6-1, 205, Sr.)
MLB	40	Anthony Waters (6-3, 240, Sr.)
WLB	32	Nick Watkins (6-2, 220, Jr.)
CB	12	C.J. Gaddis (6-0, 205, r-Jr.)
CB	3	Duane Coleman (5-10, 195, Sr.)
FS	22	Chris Clemons (6-1, 200, So.)
SS	25	Michael Hamlin (6-3, 195, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	7	Jad Dean (5-11, 205, Sr.)
P	30	Cole Chason (6-0, 165, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Tigers may be set for their loudest roar in Tommy Bowden's coaching tenure

The buzz is back at Clemson.

The Tigers closed with a rush last season, winning their final four and six of their last seven to finish the season ranked 21st. They beat three teams that were ranked in the top 20, the first time they've done that since 1989.

Clemson fans are thinking that it may be son Tommy of the Tigers and not dad Bobby of Florida State leading a team into the ACC title game.

They may be right. It's certainly not an unreasonable expectation. And it will be impressive if it happens. Clemson plays seven teams that won at least seven games last season and goes 11 weeks without a break. It hasn't played 11 consecutive weeks since 1986.

"That is a positive when you get on a roll like we did in 2000," Bowden says, referring to the season Clemson played 10 straight weeks. "But it can be a negative if you run into some injury problems."

Clemson will have to make do without veteran quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, who set 46 school records and threw for 9,665 career yards. It will have to make do without cornerback Tye Hill, a first-round NFL draft choice widely regarded as one of the best at his position.

It should be able to make do nicely.

Senior Will Proctor steps in for Whitehurst, the man he backed up for three seasons. He has little experience, playing in only 12 games and throwing just 34 passes. However, three did go for touchdowns and he has yet to be intercepted. He has taken only 99 snaps in competition.

"He sat in on all those meetings for four years and is a student of the game," Bowden says. "He had two tests last year, the fourth quarter of the Texas A&M game and the Duke game, where he started. He passed both those tests. So he has more experience than some first-year starters."

There's some interesting history at Clemson regarding seniors starting at quarterback for the first time. It happened in 1956 with Charlie Bussey, in 1979 with Billy Lott and in 1989 with Chris Morocco. Clemson went to a bowl game each of those three seasons.

Proctor will be very well protected. Clemson returns all five of its offensive linemen, a quintet that has combined for 90 career starts. Senior guard Nathan Bennett has made 25 starts and senior tackle Marion Dukes 23. Roman Fry, a guard by trade, was second-team All-ACC last season. Over the course of the year, he played center, guard and tackle. Clemson credited Fry with 18 knockdown blocks against Florida State, the most for a Tiger in four seasons.

Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,473)

As for the skill slots, Clemson is as loaded as anyone. Senior receiver Chansi Stuckey caught 64 passes for 770 yards last season. He's ACC Player-of-the-Year material. Stuckey is also the Tigers' punt returner. Stuckey and Aaron Kelly each caught at least two passes in every game last season.

The tailback combination of sophomore James Davis and senior Reggie Merriweather rushed for a combined 1,594 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2005. Davis was the ACC Rookie of the Year, based on a rushing total of 879 yards and a receiving sum of 152. A wrist injury cost him two games and a 1,000-yard rushing season. Merriweather had a streak of three games with at least 100 yards.

Clemson's 384.6 yards-per-game average on offense last season was an 89-yard improvement over the previous season.

On defense, Clemson forced at least two turnovers in each of its final eight games last year. The strength of the defense is the linebacking corps, where seniors Tramaine Billie and Anthony Waters and junior Nick Watkins return. That's merely the team's top three tacklers. Waters was the leader with 109 total tackles, 12.5 of which came behind the line of scrimmage. He is the leading returning tackler in the ACC.

Also back is senior end Gaines Adams, who led Clemson with 8.5 sacks.

Waters and Adams explored going pro early before deciding to return to Clemson.

"It was a good decision for both of them because they can improve their stock for the NFL with another outstanding season," Bowden says.

Tackle Rashaad Jackson was one of three Clemson defenders last season to be named to at least one Freshman All-America unit. He started only once last season, but managed 8.5 tackles for a loss. End Phillip Merling had 22 tackles, including two sacks, and will step into a more prominent role this fall. Clemson also has a terrific line prospect with one of the league's great names in redshirt freshman Etta Etta-Tawo, a promising prospect at tackle.

Jamaal Fudge is also gone in the defensive backfield, so that's where Clemson has the most work to do. He and Hill each intercepted three passes last season. Senior Sergio Gilliam returns at cornerback. Duane Coleman, who converted from

Head coach: Tommy Bowden, 8th year (52-33)
Career record: 70-37
Assistant coaches: Rob Spence (off. coord./QBs), Vic Koenning (def. coord.), David Blackwell (LBs/recruiting coord.), Ron West (OLBs), Burton Burns (RBs), Brad Scott (off. line), Dabo Swinney (WRs), Billy Napier (TEs), Chris Rumph (def. line)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**C.J. Spiller**, RB, 5-11, 190 *How did he get out of Florida?*
2	**Ricky Sapp**, DL, 6-5, 225 *Top in-state prospect is impressive.*
3	**James Cumbie**, DE, 6-7, 255 *Illinois product likes the South.*
4	**Kevin Alexander**, LB, 6-3, 215 *Prep teammate of Spiller could play early.*
5	**Richard Jackson**, PK/P, 5-11, 185 *All-America prep kicker should help.*

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	CLEMSON	OPP
SCORING	316	211
Points Per Game	26.3	17.6
FIRST DOWNS	249	204
Rushing	108	79
Passing	119	111
Penalty	22	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	1836	1447
Yards gained rushing	2141	1799
Yards lost rushing	305	353
Rushing Attempts	450	431
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.4
Average Per Game	153.0	120.6
TDs Rushing	20	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2779	2352
Att-Comp-Int	377-248-10	373-211-14
Average Per Pass	7.4	6.3
Average Per Catch	11.2	11.1
Average Per Game	231.6	196.0
TDs Passing	14	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	4615	3799
Total Plays	827	804
Average Per Play	5.6	4.7
Average Per Game	384.6	316.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	30-658	40-897
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-207	25-207
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-177	10-50
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.9	22.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	6.9	8.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.0	5.0
FUMBLES-LOST	15-5	24-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-486	102-787
Average Per Game	4.8	8.5
PUNTS-YARDS	1845	2857
Average Per Punt	33.5	42.0
Net punt average	29.7	39.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:38	29:22
3RD-DOWN CONV.	62/163	64/182
3rd-Down Pct.	38.0%	35.2%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8-14	7-16
4th-Down Pct.	57.1%	43.8%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-199	23-162
MISC YARDS	31	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	35	23
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	24-31	17-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-35	20-20
ATTENDANCE	470500	278658
Games/Avg Per Game	6/78417	5/55732
Neutral Site Games		1/31470

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Clemson	62	101	67	73	13	316
Opponents	29	67	42	51	22	211

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Charlie Whitehurst

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	133.5	229-340-10	67.4	2483	11	225.7

Will Proctor

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	166.1	18-31-0	58.1	281	3	70.3

Cullen Harper

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
1	113.0	1-2-0	50.0	15	0	15.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
James Davis	11	165	879	5.3	9	79.9
R. Merriweather	12	149	715	4.8	7	59.6
Kyle Browning	12	33	106	3.2	0	8.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chansi Stuckey	12	64	770	12.0	4	64.2
Aaron Kelly	12	47	575	12.2	2	47.9
Curtis Baham	12	32	500	15.6	4	41.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Anthony Waters	11	74	35	109
Nick Watkins	12	62	37	99
Tramaine Billie	12	50	43	93

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Gaines Adams	12	9.5	64
Charles Bennett	12	3.5	12
Phillip Merling	12	2.0	11

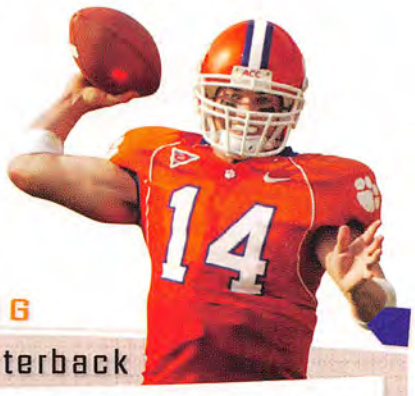
INTERCEPTONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
C.J. Gaddis	3	36	12.0	0
Tye Hill	3	35	11.7	0
Jamaal Fudge	3	10	3.3	0

James Davis, RB

tailback and started three games at corner in 2005, will step in at one corner, while former quarterback C.J. Gaddis will get a look at the other spot.

Sophomore safety Michael Hamlin was a starter for the final seven games last season and intercepted two passes. Sophomore Chris Clemons will man the other safety slot.

Clemson is experienced on special teams, as kicker Jad Dean and punter Cole Chason—both seniors—return for their third years as starters. Dean kicked a school-record 24 field goals last season. Chason averaged just 36.4 yards per punt.



NEXT BIG THING

WILL PROCTOR, senior quarterback

Forget the patience of Job. Try the patience of Proctor—as in Will Proctor, who, after four years of waiting, assumes the starting quarterback job at Clemson this fall.

The senior served as Charlie Whitehurst's understudy the past two seasons after a year at wide receiver and a redshirt campaign as a freshman. Expectations are soaring for Proctor after solid performances in two games last year.

His most memorable relief effort came in the 2005 season opener against Texas A&M, when Whitehurst, after suffering a crushing tackle, left the game woozy late in the third quarter. Proctor took over and helped Clemson drive down the field for a game-winning field goal with two seconds left. Along the way, he demonstrated remarkable poise during the fourth quarter, completing two of four passes for 28 yards and rushing three times for 18 yards in the 25-24 win.

"He had an opportunity to compete and play and win in a critical situation," says Clemson Offensive Coordinator Rob Spence. "That fourth quarter against A&M, and his start on the road at Duke [later in the season], were big steps. He has been preparing for this role [as a starter] for a long time."

At Duke, Proctor made the first start of his college career, leading the Tigers to a 49-20 win. He threw two TD passes and ran for another score, contributing 232 yards of total offense on the day.

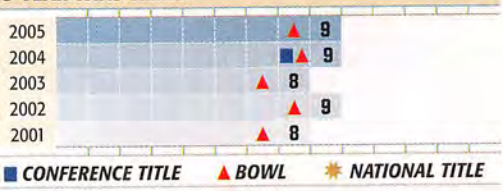
Proctor is confident he can turn in a productive year as a starter. He has a strong backfield, including 2005 breakout star James Davis, as well as a veteran offensive line Spence describes as the heart of the team.

"Charlie [Whitehurst] taught me a lot about how to prepare for games, how to practice well and how to watch [game] film," Proctor says. "He became a legendary quarterback at Clemson and I've got some big shoes to fill, but I think we're going to have a balanced attack and do some good things. It's an exciting opportunity."

—Erik Spanberg

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Eagles to hang title hopes on one-two punch at running back

While in the Big East Conference, Boston College forged a reputation as an always-strong team that would go to a bowl every year but never quite made the transition from good to great.

Now in the ACC, it doesn't look like anything has changed. The Eagles will be very good again and are a near-lock to make their eighth straight bowl appearance. But they won't be great.

The Eagles have six starters back on each side of the ball. They lose one offensive stud in receiver Will Blackmon and one serious defensive stud in end Mathias Kiwanuka.

The offensive line has three two-year starters back. Senior left tackle James Marten, senior right guard Josh Beekman and junior right tackle Gosder Cherilus give the Eagles good reason not to worry about protection. They'll miss Pat Ross, who started 37 games at center in three years.

Boston College didn't have a 1,000-yard rusher last season, a rarity, but L.V. Whitworth and Andrew Callender combined for 1,515 yards as sophomores in 2005. Whitworth led the team with 807 yards, while Callender had a better per-carry average at 5.0 (to 4.3). Also back is sophomore A.J. Brooks, who gained 319 yards in 2004 and then took a redshirt season. Senior Mark Palmer returns for another season at fullback.

Blackmon and Larry Lester combined to catch 88 balls last season. Tony Gonzalez, who caught 28 passes for 414 yards and five touchdowns, is back. Kevin Challenger, who had 16 catches, will get more chances this season. Redshirt-freshman receivers to watch are Clarence Megwa and Rich Gunnell.

Junior Matt Ryan returns at quarterback after splitting time with Quinton Porter. He threw for 1,514 yards and eight scores last year, going 5-0 as the starter.

Ryan's magic moment came during a midseason game against Wake Forest. Boston College was down nine with 3:36 left and he threw for a pair of touchdowns in a span of 1:18 as the Eagles rallied to win. Ryan was also MVP of the MPC Computers Bowl.

"We are excited about his chances to lead this team in the fall," BC Coach Tom O'Brien says.

A player to watch is junior linebacker Brian Toal. He had 53 tackles last season, including seven behind the line. He's also the team's short-yardage back. He had 23 carries and a team-best six touchdowns in '05. He could be BC's leading tackler and scorer this season.

Toal will need some help at linebacker, as the Eagles are without Ray Henderson and Ricky Brown.

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Atlantic:
9-3	5-3

(beat Boise State in the MPC Computers Bowl, 27-21)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S.9	Clemson	16-13 (OT)
S.16	Brigham Young	20-3
S.23	@N.C. STATE	30-10
S.30	Maine	
O.12	Virginia Tech	10-30
O.21	@FLORIDA STATE	17-28
O.28	Buffalo	
N.4	@WAKE FOREST	35-30
N.11	Duke	
N.18	Maryland	31-16
N.23	@ MIAMI (FL)	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

BC may not be able to make it to the ACC title game, but it could determine who does in this one.

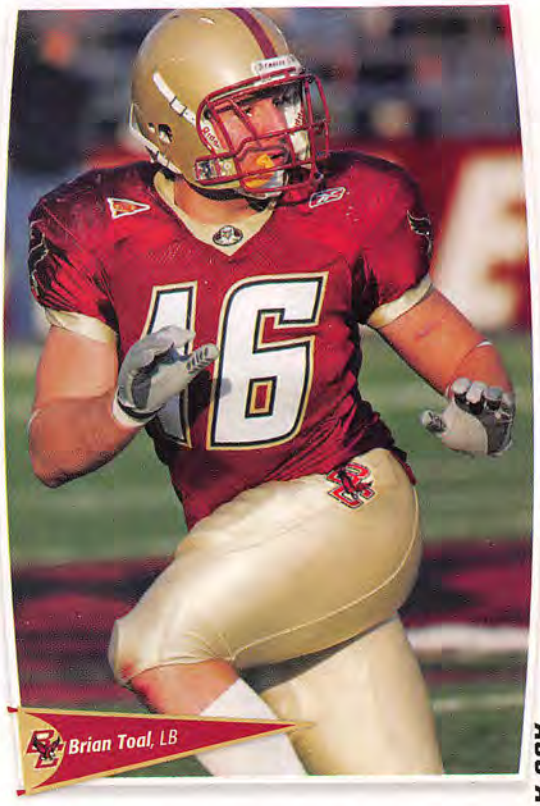
PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/16

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Matt Ryan (6-5, 221, Jr.)
FB	49	Mark Palmer (6-3, 245, Sr.)
TB	30	L.V. Whitworth (6-0, 220, Jr.)
LT	70	James Marten (6-8, 315, Sr.)
LG	74	Ryan Poles (6-4, 310, Jr.)
C	61	Kevin Sheridan (6-3, 296, Jr.)
RG	75	Josh Beekman (6-2, 325, Sr.)
RT	77	Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 320, Jr.)
TE	85	Ryan Thompson (6-4, 254, Jr.)
WR	84	Kevin Challenger (5-9, 177, Jr.)
WR	26	Tony Gonzalez (5-11, 190, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	86	Jim Ramella (6-4, 244, So.)
LT	60	Ron Brace (6-3, 343, So.)
RT	90	B.J. Raji (6-1, 337, Jr.)
RE	57	Nick Larkin (6-4, 252, Jr.)
LB	48	Tyronne Pruitt (5-11, 218, Jr.)
LB	40	Jolonn Dunbar (6-1, 224, Jr.)
LB	16	Brian Toal (6-1, 238, Jr.)
CB	9	Larry Anam (6-0, 192, Sr.)
CB	27	DeJuan Tribble (5-9, 189, Jr.)
SS	24	Ryan Glasper (6-0, 207, Sr.)
FS	44	Jamie Silva (5-11, 205, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	20	Ryan Ohliger (5-9, 197, Jr.)
P	46	Johnny Ayers (6-0, 186, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500)



Brian Toal, LB

Henderson, the middle linebacker, started 37 straight games. Junior Jolonn Dunbar will move into the middle. Tyronne Pruitt, another junior, figures to be the other starter.

With Kiwanuka and Al Washington both gone on the defensive line, the Eagles have some work to do there. Junior tackle B.J. Raji and junior end Nick Larkin are back. Larkin had six sacks last season.

"They have to improve and get better," O'Brien says.

Junior free safety Jamie Silva is among BC's defensive returnees. He was the leading tackler last season with 87 stops and is one of three members of the starting secondary to return. Another is junior cornerback DeJuan Tribble, who had 57 tackles.

O'Brien has 66 victories at the school and needs only three more to become the Eagles' winningest all-time coach. He's been at BC since 1997.

Head coach: Tom O'Brien, 10th year (66-42)
Career record: 66-42
Assistant coaches: Jerry Petercuskie (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./special teams), Dana Bible (off. coord./QBs/WRs), Frank Spaziani (def. coord.), Don Horton (off. line), Bill McGovern (LBs), Jason Swepson (RBs), Keith Willis (def. line), Kevin Lempa (def. backs), Jim Bridge (TEs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Thomas Claiborne**, DL, 6-3, 340
   Massive in-state lineman should help immediately.
2. **Billy Flutie**, QB, 6-2, 176
   A can't-miss prospect at BC with this last name.
3. **Richard Lapham**, OL, 6-8, 315
   As big as the New Hampshire mountains.
4. **James McCluskey**, LB, 6-2, 240
   He could also play at tight end.
5. **Jordon McMichael**, TE, 6-5, 237
   Minnesota product heads to Northeast.

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

ACC ATLANTIC

Terps need a quarterback to establish himself, and find some new playmakers on defense

During his long tenure as an assistant, Maryland Coach Ralph Friedgen earned a reputation as a master of developing quarterbacks. So it seems a little strange that one thing holding back the Terrapins is the fact that they haven't had a quarterback emerge the past two seasons.

Sam Hollenbach, a senior, looked the part for much of last year. He has the goods. He threw for 2,539 yards in 2005, but was also intercepted 15 times. During spring practice, he was pressed by sophomore Jordan Steffy, and Friedgen indicated that battle wasn't over. Steffy was a promising recruit who played as a true freshman in 2004 and then took a redshirt season.

Josh Portis has transferred in from Florida, but won't be able to help the Terrapins until 2007.

Maryland, coming off back-to-back 5-6 seasons, lost two big-time players in tight end Vernon Davis and linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, who were the sixth and 34th overall selections, respectively, in the NFL Draft. Davis had four 100-yard receiving games last season, the most in the league. Jackson was the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year, leading the conference with 137 tackles despite missing one game.

Four starters are back on the offensive line, which should help the eventual winner of the quarterback derby. Among them is sophomore tackle Jared Gaither, who started the final eight games as a true freshman and didn't allow a sack. Senior tackle Stephon Heyer returns after sitting out last season with a knee injury. His eventual replacement will have huge shoes to fill, literally. Heyer wears a size 22.

Drew Weatherly caught 10 passes last season. That was enough to make him Maryland's leading returning receiver among the wideouts. Dan Gronkowski will get the chance to try and replace Davis at tight end, but the Terp coaches are excited about recruit Drew Gloster there.

Junior Lance Ball showed some promise late last season at tailback. He started four times, was third in the league with 903 rushing yards and had four 100-yard games in his final seven outings. Josh Allen, who has 1,941 career yards, is back after missing last season with a knee injury.

"In Lance, we have a known commodity, but I would like for him to get faster and continue to improve," Friedgen says. "It'll be great to see Josh back out there because we missed having that true breakaway threat."

Seven starters are back on defense. But none were among the top three tacklers last season. Safety Milton Harris and linebacker William Kershaw, Nos. 2-3 behind Jackson, are also gone. Senior tackle Conrad Bolston, who led Maryland with five sacks, does return. He's one of four returning starters on the line. Safety Christian Varner, who led Maryland with three interceptions last season, is also back.

Trey Covington is back for his sophomore season at linebacker. He had three sacks among his 24 tackles last year. Wesley Jefferson will replace Jackson. Three of the last five winners of the ACC Defensive Player of the Year occupied Jefferson's spot. E.J. Henderson played there before Jackson.

Maryland does have one of the best punters in the country, Adam Podlesh, a senior who has a 43.2 average for 160 career punts. Kicker Dan Ennis made his first 11 field goals and missed eight of his next 14 in 2005. He also missed four extra points.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Melvin Alaeze**, DE, 6-2, 280 *Prep school star could be four-year starter.*
2	**Jeremy Ricker**, QB, 6-2, 201 *Pennsylvania product has potential.*
3	**Bruce Campbell**, OL, 6-7, 285 *Touted blocker from Connecticut.*
4	**Chris Clinton**, LB, 6-3, 240 *Year at prep school helped his stock.*
5	**Drew Gloster**, TE/WR, 6-3, 225 *Good-sized hybrid receiver might contribute early.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Atlantic:
5-6	3-5

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	William & Mary	
S.9	Middle Tennessee State	
S.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-31
S.23	Florida International	
O.7	@GEORGIA TECH	
O.14	@VIRGINIA	45-33
O.21	North Carolina State	14-20
O.28	Florida State	27-35
N.4	@CLEMSON	24-28
N.11	Miami (FL)	
N.18	@BOSTON COLLEGE	16-31
N.25	Wake Forest	22-12

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Terps hammered the Cavaliers in one of their highlights from last season and may need to do it again to enhance their bowl chances.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/17

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Sam Hollenbach (6-5, 218, Sr.)
FB	32	Tim Cesa (6-1, 243, Jr.)
TB	44	Lance Ball (5-9, 225, Jr.)
LT	70	Stephon Heyer (6-7, 319, Sr.)
LG	69	Donnie Woods (6-3, 291, So.)
C	60	Edwin Williams (6-4, 317, So.)
RG	63	Andrew Crummey (6-5, 294, Jr.)
RT	58	Jared Gaither (6-9, 330, So.)
TE	13	Dan Gronkowski (6-6, 262, So.)
WR	11	Drew Weatherly (6-4, 210, Sr.)
WR	84	Isaiah Williams (6-3, 200, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	40	Jeremy Navarre (6-4, 250, So.)
NT	92	Dre Moore (6-4, 298, Jr.)
DT	95	Conrad Bolston (6-3, 285, Sr.)
LEO	55	Trey Covington (6-3, 241, So.)
LB	35	Wesley Jefferson (6-1, 236, Jr.)
LB	1	Erin Henderson (6-3, 233, So.)
LB	54	David Holloway (6-2, 222, Jr.)
CB	5	Isaiah Gardner (5-11, 194, Jr.)
CB	4	Josh Wilson (5-10, 182, Sr.)
FS	3	Christian Varner (5-11, 195, Jr.)
SS	12	Marcus Wimbush (5-11, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	11	Dan Ennis (5-11, 154, Sr.)
P	36	Adam Podlesh (6-0, 192, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Byrd Stadium (51,500)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Ralph Friedgen, 6th year (41-20)
Career record: 41-20
Assistant coaches: Chris Cosh (def. coord./ILBs), Tim Banks (secondary), Bryan Bossard (WRs), Tom Brattan (off. line), John Donovan (RBs), Ray Rychleski (special teams coord./TEs), Al Seamonson (OLBs/special teams asst.), Dave Sollazzo (def. line/recruiting coord.)

RALEIGH

N.C. STATE
WOLFPACK

2005 Record: 7-5 overall, **3-5 ACC**
(beat South Florida in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 14-0)

Marcus Stone, QB

N.C. State got off to an awful start last season, then rallied to win five of its final six and earn a spot in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. But it was a season where much more was expected from a team with a stellar defense.

How stellar? Three of those Wolfpack defenders went in the first round of the NFL Draft. One of them, defensive end Mario Williams, was the first overall pick. Wolfpack fans felt a bowl bid should have been locked up much earlier.

This year, the expectations won't be as high since the team's top three receivers and four of the five top tacklers are gone.

Last year might have gone better had Coach Chuck Amato made the switch to quarterback Marcus Stone earlier. Now a junior, Stone started six games and won five of them, including at Florida State.

Sophomore tailback Andre Brown is another player who gives N.C. State hope. He gained 667 yards on 129 carries last season and scored six touchdowns. Toney Baker, who gained 546 yards and rushed for five scores, is also back.

Senior center Leroy Harris, who has 33 career starts, is the best of the offensive linemen.

With Williams and fellow end Manny Lawson among the missing on defense, NCSU has some serious work to do. Williams, Lawson and linebacker Stephen Tulloch combined for 64.5 tackles for loss and 31 sacks last season.

Senior tackle Tank Tyler and junior tackle DeMario Pressley do return. They combined for 11.5 tackles for loss last season, but were helped considerably by the presence of Williams and Lawson. Let's see how they do when they're the focal point of a blocking scheme.

The secondary is almost intact, with rover Garland Heath, free safety Miguel Scott and cornerback A.J. Davis returning. Heath had 64 tackles last season, the most of any returnee, and led the team with five interceptions.

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲7
2004	5
2003	▲8
2002	▲11
2001	▲7

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Chuck Amato, 7th year (46-28)
Career record: 46-28
Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium
Capacity: 56,800
Official athletic Web site: www.gopack.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Appalachian State	
S.9	Akron	
S.16	@SOUTHERN MISS	21-17
S.23	Boston College	10-30
O.5	FLORIDA STATE	20-15
O.14	Wake Forest	19-27
O.21	@MARYLAND	20-14
O.28	@VIRGINIA	
N.4	Georgia Tech	17-14
N.11	@CLEMSON	10-31
N.18	@NORTH CAROLINA	24-31
N.25	East Carolina	

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

N.C. State plays five of its first six at home and a repeat victory over the Seminoles, while unlikely, could provide a huge boost two weeks before the road games begin.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/19

OFFENSE		
QB	9	Marcus Stone (6-4, 236, r-Jr.)
HB	24	Andre Brown (6-0, 232, So.)
FB	89	Octavius Darby (6-2, 256, r-So.)
LT	78	James Newby (6-5, 295, r-Sr.)
LG	69	Kalani Heppe (6-3, 300, r-Jr.)
C	64	Leroy Harris (6-3, 300, r-Sr.)
RG	76	Curtis Crouch (6-5, 344, So.)
RT	79	Jon Holt (6-6, 296, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Anthony Hill (6-6, 277, Jr.)
WR	1	John Dunlap (6-2, 210, Jr.)
WR	13	LaMart Barrett (6-1, 190, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	97	Willie Young (6-5, 230, r-Fr.)
LT	92	DeMario Pressley (6-4, 293, Jr.)
RT	72	Tank Tyler (6-2, 305, Sr.)
RE	98	Littleton Wright (6-6, 244, r-Jr.)
SLB	29	LeRue Rumph (6-2, 225, r-Jr.)
MLB	42	Pat Lowery (6-1, 242, r-Sr.)
WLB	20	Reggie Davis (6-0, 246, Sr.)
LCB	3	A.J. Davis (5-10, 191, r-Sr.)
RCB	8	Jimmie Sutton (5-11, 181, r-Jr.)
FS	25	Miguel Scott (6-0, 203, Jr.)
ROV	19	Garland Heath (6-2, 225, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	12	John Deraney (6-4, 224, r-Sr.)
P	12	John Deraney (6-4, 224, r-Sr.)

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

WAKE FOREST
DEMON DEACONS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-5 ACC**

At a school where success in football has proved to be elusive, Jim Grobe seemed to be the answer. He produced winning records in each of his first two seasons as the Demon Deacons' coach (2001-02) and earned universal praise in the process. Since then, however, Wake has gone 13-21.

Upward mobility doesn't come easily in the expanded ACC, but the Deacons have reason to be optimistic this season and can reasonably ask this: If not now, then when?

Nineteen starters, including kicker Sam Swank, are back at Wake, the most of any team in the ACC. Joining Wake's veterans are 21 players who redshirted last season. The biggest losses were tailback Chris Barclay, the Deacons' all-time leading rusher, and punter Ryan Plackemeier, who was thrice selected to the All-ACC first team. Barclay was the ACC's Player of the Year in 2005, but the conference's best running game (197.5 yards per game) should be strong again, as junior Micah Andrews takes over as the featured tailback. Andrews rushed for 621 yards last season, including 254 in the season opener against Vanderbilt.

Ben Mauk, a junior, split time at quarterback with Cory Randolph last season. Randolph exhausted his eligibility, so the job now belongs solely to Mauk, who passed for 845 yards in 2005. Mauk threw only one TD pass, however, and was picked off six times. He must improve in those areas if the Deacons are to climb out of the Atlantic cellar. Mauk's favorite target figures to be senior wideout Nate Morton, who led Wake with 39 catches for 482 yards last year.

Experience runs through the offensive line. The leaders are senior tackles Arby Jones and Steve Vallos, a preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American. Juniors Matthew Brim and Steve Justice return at guard and center, respectively. Tight ends John Tereshinski and Zac Selmon are juniors whose forte is blocking.

From a unit that ranked 11th among ACC teams in scoring defense (28.7 ppg), 10 starters return, led by junior linebacker Jon Abbate and senior safety Josh Gattis. Abbate is bidding to pace the Deacons in tackles for the third straight year. Gattis, a second-team All-ACC pick, intercepted five passes, returning two for touchdowns.

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	4
2003	5
2002	▲7
2001	6

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Jim Grobe, 6th year (26-32)
Career record: 59-65-1
Stadium: Groves Stadium
Capacity: 31,500
Official athletic Web site: www.wakeforestsports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	SYRACUSE	
S.9	Duke	44-6
S.16	@CONNECTICUT	
S.23	@MISSISSIPPI	
S.30	Liberty	
O.7	Clemson	31-27
O.14	@N.C. STATE	27-19
O.28	@NORTH CAROLINA	
N.4	Boston College	30-35
N.11	@FLORIDA STATE	24-41
N.18	Virginia Tech	
N.25	@MARYLAND	12-22

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

If the Deacons can win their opener, a 4-1 record heading into their Oct. 7 date with Clemson won't be out of the question.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/10

OFFENSE		
QB	8	Benjamin Mauk (6-1, 200, r-Jr.)
FB	49	Damon McWhite (6-1, 255, r-Jr.)
TB	3	Micah Andrews (5-10, 215, r-Jr.)
LT	61	Arby Jones (6-2, 285, r-Sr.)
LG	79	Matthew Brim (6-4, 295, r-Jr.)
C	74	Steve Justice (6-4, 280, r-Jr.)
RG	70	Chris DeGeare (6-4, 360, So.)
RT	75	Steve Vallos (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
TE	89	John Tereshinski (6-3, 240, r-Jr.)
WR	83	Nate Morton (6-3, 215, r-Sr.)
WR	14	Kevin Marion (5-10, 160, r-So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Anthony Davis (6-5, 240, r-So.)
NG	90	Jamil Smith (6-2, 294, r-Sr.)
DT	55	Jyles Tucker (6-3, 268, Sr.)
DE	48	Bryan Andrews (6-5, 263, r-Sr.)
SLB	59	Aaron Curry (6-3, 240, r-So.)
MLB	40	Jon Abbate (5-11, 245, r-Jr.)
WLB	51	Pierre Easley (6-0, 250, r-Sr.)
CB	7	Riley Swanson (5-11, 188, r-Sr.)
CB	11	Alphonso Smith (5-9, 188, r-So.)
FS	22	Josh Gattis (6-1, 212, r-Sr.)
SS	30	Patrick Ghee (6-1, 211, r-Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r-So.)
P	38	Sam Swank (6-2, 206, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

MIAMI HURRICANES

After Peach Bowl disaster and staff shakeup, the heat is on for Coker and the 'Canes in Miami

As if the 2005 regular season wasn't painful enough for Miami, which let a BCS bid slip away with a shocking home loss to Georgia Tech, the Peach Bowl was an unmitigated disaster. LSU embarrassed the Hurricanes 40-3 in Atlanta, a loss that nearly caused their fan base to implode and led to major offseason changes in Coach Larry Coker's program.

Gone are six assistants. Considering that Coker's record with the 'Canes is 53-9, a staff overhaul of that magnitude might strike some as an overreaction. And that may be true. But expectations are higher for the five-time national champs than at most schools, and the team's late-season collapse in 2005 outraged fans and alumni.

The Hurricanes (9-3, 6-2) finished second in the Coastal Division behind Virginia Tech, a team they'd throttled 27-7 in Blacksburg. Amid all the hysteria, however, it's worth remembering that Miami and Texas are the only teams to have won at least nine games in each of the past six seasons.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Ryan Hill**, DB, 5-11, 186
Could play cornerback or wide receiver.
2. **LeSean McCoy**, RB, 5-11, 204
Can Pennsylvanian rebound from injury?
3. **Chaz Washington**, DL, 6-4, 305
Massive down lineman looks the part.
4. **Sam Shields**, WR, 6-0, 177
Typical athletic receiver from the Sunshine State.
5. **Richard Gordon**, TE, 6-4, 265
Fast and multi-skilled, he should play some right away.

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	✪✪✪✪
DEFENSE	✪✪✪✪✪
SPECIAL TEAMS	✪✪✪✪
COACHING	✪✪✪

2005 Record:	ACC Coastal:
9-3	6-2

(lost to LSU in the Peach Bowl, 40-3)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.4	Florida State	7-10
S.9	Florida A&M	
S.16	@LOUISVILLE	
S.30	Houston	
O.7	North Carolina	34-16
O.14	Florida International	
O.21	@DUKE	52-7
O.28	@GEORGIA TECH	10-14
N.4	**VIRGINIA TECH**	**27-7**
N.11	@MARYLAND	
N.18	@VIRGINIA	25-17
N.23	Boston College	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This may well decide which team wins the Coastal and advances to the ACC title game.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 57/22

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Kyle Wright (6-4, 220, Jr.)
FB	41	Jerrell Mabry (6-1, 259, r-Fr.)
TB	30	Tyrone Moss (5-9, 220, Sr.)
LT	77	Reggie Youngblood (6-5, 280, So.)
LG	70	A.J. Trump (6-3, 297, r-Fr.)
C	78	Anthony Wollschlager (6-4, 281, Sr.)
RG	71	Derrick Morse (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	67	Tyrone Byrd (6-5, 280, So.)
TE	82	Greg Olsen (6-5, 252, Jr.)
SE	85	Ryan Moore (6-3, 215, Sr.)
FL	8	Darnell Jenkins (5-10, 181, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	98	Baraka Atkins (6-4, 264, Sr.)
LT	99	Kareem Brown (6-4, 307, Sr.)
RT	54	Teraz McCray (6-1, 278, Jr.)
RE	95	Bryan Pata (6-4, 272, Sr.)
SLB	52	Tavares Gooden (6-2, 220, Jr.)
MLB	55	Glenn Cook (6-0, 212, Jr.)
WLB	2	Jon Beason (6-0, 225, Jr.)
LCB	4	Glenn Sharpe (6-0, 187, Jr.)
RCB	6	Randy Phillips (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	19	Brandon Meriweather (6-0, 188, Sr.)
SS	1	Kenny Phillips (6-2, 200, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	13	Jon Peattie (6-2, 206, Sr.)
P	15	Brian Monroe (6-2, 208, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Orange Bowl (72,319)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Larry Coker, 6th year (53-9)
Career record: 53-9
Assistant coaches: Rich Olson (off. coord.), Todd Berry (QBs), Marquis Mosely (WRs), Mario Cristobal (off. line), Joe Pannunzio (TEs/special teams), Randy Shannon (def. coord./LBs), John Palermo (def. line), Clint Hurtt (asst. def. line), Tim Walton (def. backs)

"There will be some changes," Coker said in the offseason. "I think the thing that we have to be cognizant of is that this has not been a disaster around here. People have to realize that. But are we satisfied? No, we're not satisfied."

Miami's new assistants include Offensive Coordinator Rich Olson, who spent the past 12 seasons in the NFL. Olson was the Hurricanes' quarterbacks coach in 1992 and '93 and served as their offensive coordinator in '94.

As usual, Miami returns numerous swift and talented players. But once again, Coker has significant holes in his lineup. Nine Hurricanes were chosen in this year's NFL Draft, including return-man extraordinaire Devin Hester, who passed up his final season of college eligibility to turn pro. Hester made the All-ACC first team last year, as did two other Miami players picked in the draft: offensive tackle Eric Winston and cornerback Kelly Jennings. Winston also collected the Jacobs Trophy as the ACC's top blocker in 2005.

Miami returns one all-conference first-teamer, senior tailback Tyrone Moss, who suffered a season-ending knee injury against Virginia Tech. Moss led the ACC in touchdowns last season despite missing the final four games (and most of a fifth). He's expected to be cleared by this summer, which is good news for an offense that returns only five starters. Moss ran for 701 yards and 12 TDs before getting hurt.

The other returning starters on offense are junior quarterback Kyle Wright, who ranked second in the ACC in passing efficiency last year; junior tight end Greg Olsen, an All-America candidate; senior center Anthony Wollschlager; and senior wideout Ryan Moore. And don't forget Charlie Jones, who took over at tailback when Moss went down and will get carries this season, too. Jones, a bruising 5-10, 203-pound junior, rushed for 507 yards and five TDs in 2005.

Wright completed 180 of 307 passes for 2,403 yards and 18 touchdowns, with 10 interceptions. Among ACC quarterbacks, only Florida State's Drew Weatherford threw as many TD passes. If Wright can cut down on his interceptions, he could wind up on the All-ACC Team this season. He'll benefit, of course, from having so many talented targets from which to choose.

The list starts with Olsen and Moore. Olsen, whose older brother, Christian, enters the season as Virginia's starting quarterback, had 31 catches

for 451 yards in 2005, while Moore had 28 for 464. Each caught four TD passes. Other weapons in Miami's passing game include receivers Lance Leggett, who's coming off a disappointing season but impressed during spring drills, and senior Darnell Jenkins, who's likely to replace Hester as the team's return specialist.

Jenkins caught 25 passes for 242 yards and two TDs last year. He averaged 21.9 yards on eight kickoff returns and 8.0 yards on eight punt returns. Leggett, a 6-3 junior, is up to about 185 pounds—15 more than his playing weight in 2005—and appears poised for a breakout season.

"I said in the beginning of spring that he was starting to look a lot better, and he's really showing it," Wright told reporters in April.

Expected to take over for Winston at the all-important left-tackle spot is 6-5, 280-pound Reggie Youngblood, who played in eight games as a true freshman last year. "I think he soaked up a lot," Coker says. "I think he's going to be a great player."

Defensive Coordinator Randy Shannon has several players who fit that description, including senior safety Brandon Meriweather, a Thorpe Award candidate who was a second-team All-ACC pick last year. The 6-0, 188-pounder led the 'Canes in tackles and broke up seven passes.

The other safety, sophomore Kenny Phillips, was a Freshman All-American who finished third on the team in tackles. Phillips started in place of Anthony Reddick, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener. Reddick is back to bolster a unit that ranked fourth nationally in scoring defense (14.2 ppg) and dominated the offense during spring practice.

"It's really, really difficult to run the football on our team," Coker says. "I definitely expect our defense to be as good as last year, and I expect it to be better."

The leader of the line is senior Baraka Atkins, who has started 34 games at tackle and end. Also back at end is senior Bryan Pata, who owns 16 career starts. Atkins (6-4, 264 pounds) is likely to see most of his time at end, but in some situations "he'll play inside, depending on what we need," Coker says. "He really can help us in either position."

Candidates to start at tackle include senior Kareem Brown (6-4, 307) and junior Teraz McCray (6-1, 278), who missed the first half of last season while recovering from a torn ACL.

Miami's marquee linebacker figures to be junior Jon Beason, who made 66 tackles in '05. Classmate Romeo Davis is also back, and the Hurricanes are deep at this position. Still another junior, Tavares Gooden, started nine games at linebacker in 2004, but took a medical redshirt last year. Also pressing for playing time at linebacker is junior James Bryant, who was a backup fullback and special-teams standout in 2005. Sophomore Willie Williams, the nation's most highly recruited linebacker two years ago, is still trying to show what all the hype was about.

The Hurricanes have long been renowned for their elusive return men, and that shouldn't change this year. The team's kicking game looks promising as well. Punter Brian Monroe is a four-year starter, and he's steadily improved during his career. He also kicks off for the 'Canes and had 22 touchbacks last year.

Placekicker Jon Peattie is the nation's top returning scorer with 272 career points. In all, Peattie has made 52 of 72 field-goal attempts (72.2 percent) as a Hurricane. On Miami's all-time scoring list, he's fifth. Peattie will be trying to rebound, however, from an uneven junior campaign in which he missed five extra points. On field goals, he was 15-for-20, with a long of 49 yards—a noticeable improvement from his sophomore season, when he made only 15 of 24 tries.

NEXT BIG THING

RICHARD GORDON, freshman tight end

It didn't take long for freshman Richard Gordon to make an impression on Miami Hurricanes Coach Larry Coker, who has all but penciled in the 6-4, 265-pound freshman for the team's Labor Day opener against Florida State.

"He'll definitely play right away," Coker says of his newest offensive weapon. "There are a lot of things about him that make me think he can help us this fall. He runs a 4.4 40 at 265 pounds. He has great hands [and] he's tough."

Gordon will likely play a combination of tight end and H-back for the Hurricanes. He has impressed the Miami coaching staff with his size and strength; he can bench-press 335 pounds and squat 475.

Gordon, who enrolled early at Miami in January, played his senior prep season at Milford (N.Y.) Academy, which primarily played against college junior-varsity teams. With the Falcons, Gordon was used everywhere on the field—at receiver, tight end, defensive end and even special teams, where he had two kickoff returns (89 and 99 yards) for touchdowns.

Coker plans to utilize Gordon as both a blocker for Miami's running game and in the open field. If he catches on to the playbook quickly, opposing defenses should be wary.

A two-tight-end set with junior Greg Olsen, the team's leading returning receiver with 451 yards in receptions last year, would give quarterback Kyle Wright multiple weapons. Of course, Miami has historically been a hotbed for star tight ends (most recently Jeremy Shockey and Kellen Winslow Jr.).

Gordon just may be next in line.

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MIAMI	OPP
SCORING	325	171
Points Per Game	27.1	14.2
FIRST DOWNS	217	194
Rushing	83	92
Passing	114	76
Penalty	20	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	1651	1415
Yards gained rushing	2060	1872
Yards lost rushing	409	457
Rushing Attempts	448	474
Average Per Rush	3.7	3.0
Average Per Game	137.6	117.9
TDs Rushing	18	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2586	1826
Att-Comp-Int	340-195-12	354-165-14
Average Per Pass	7.6	5.2
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.1
Average Per Game	215.5	152.2
TDs Passing	20	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4237	3241
Total Plays	788	828
Average Per Play	5.4	3.9
Average Per Game	353.1	270.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	24-433	40-714
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	37-407	29-150
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-227	12-59
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.0	17.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.0	5.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	4.9
FUMBLES-LOST	19-11	30-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	88-841	83-626
Average Per Game	70.1	52.2
PUNTS-YARDS	66-2572	83-3231
Average Per Punt	39.0	38.9
Net punt average	36.7	34.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:28	31:32
3RD-DOWN CONV.	51/159	60/201
3rd-Down Pct	32%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/13	13/23
4th-Down Pct	38%	57%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-246	36-246
MISC YARDS	76	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	41	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	15-20	12-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-39	19-19
ATTENDANCE	271862	278697
Games/Avg Per Game	6/45310	5/55739
Neutral Site Games		1/65620

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Miami	80	110	77	42	16	325
Opponent	37	56	28	40	10	171

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kyle Wright

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	137.22	307-180-10	58.6	2403	18	200.2

Kirby Freeman

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	106.36	31-15-2	48.4	183	2	20.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tyrone Moss	8	137	701	5.1	12	87.6
Charlie Jones	11	123	507	4.1	5	46.1
Derron Thomas	10	47	150	3.2	0	15.0

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Sinorice Moss	12	37	614	16.6	6	51.2
Greg Olsen	12	31	451	14.5	4	37.6
Quadtrine Hill	12	29	252	8.7	1	21.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Roger McIntosh	12	50	39	89
Brandon Meriweather	12	57	31	88
Kenny Phillips	12	40	27	67

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Javon Nanton	12	6.5	52
Roger McIntosh	12	5.5	45
Orien Harris	12	3.5	15

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Lovon Ponder	3	44	14.7	0
Kelly Jennings	3	36	12.0	0
Brandon Meriweather	3	27	9.0	0

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

Still looking for a successor to Vick under center, Hokies will rely on a potentially dominating defense

One thing is for certain with the Hokies: They will go to a bowl game for the 14th straight season. The combination of a strong defense and a soft non-league schedule make that a safe bet.

One thing not for certain with the Hokies: They will be highly ranked again when the season ends, as they have been the past two years. Way too many holes on offense make that less than a safe bet.

The defense will be as good as it has been in years. The only place where Tech can't be totally confident is at outside linebacker, where senior Brenden Hill and junior Corey Gordon don't have a lot of experience. Hill will be quite the success story if he does well. He's bounced around to several different positions without much success, but seems to have found a spot that fits his skills well.

At the other 10 spots, the Hokies know what they have and they know it is very good.

Juniors Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi make up one of the nation's best combinations at inside linebacker. Hall was Tech's leading tackler last season by a wide margin. Tech's primary mission going into the season will be to find some backups it can count on in case one of those two get hurt. The drop-off to the second team is considerable at linebacker, more so than any other spot on the defense. But sophomore Purnell Sturdivant has a chance to be very good, and the coaches are also expected to take a very long look at incoming freshman Matt Wright.

On the line, Tech will comfortably go two deep. Ends Noland Burchette and Chris Ellis and tackles Barry Booker and Carlton Powell will be spelled frequently by ends Orion Martin and William Wall and tackles Kory Robertson and Cordarrow Thompson. The drop-off will be barely noticeable. Burchette has been bothered by a variety of injuries the past year and suffered a broken arm in spring practice. He's expected to be healthy for the fall.

Senior rover Aaron Rouse has All-America potential. He switched from outside linebacker last season and showed he could still provide run support while handling deeper pass coverage. He thought briefly about turning pro before deciding to return for a senior season, a wise move that will pay off if he continues to develop as he has his first three seasons.

Junior D.J. Parker (Wright's older brother) returns at free safety, where he split time with Justin Hamilton last season. Some combination of junior Roland Minor and sophomores Brandon Flowers and Victor Harris will work the corners. Tech will use all three in a nickel package, removing the outside linebacker when it does so.

Things are much more unsettled on the other side of the ball.

The Hokies came out of spring practice without a clear winner in the battle to replace the dismissed Marcus Vick at quarterback. Sophomore Sean Glennon goes into preseason camp as the leader, though redshirt freshman Ike Whitaker may have the most potential.

Quarterback is an area of great concern. It is something Tech wanted to have settled after spring practice, but none of the candidates left the coaching staff confident enough to make the call. Glennon is seen as very steady, perhaps without as big an upside as Whitaker or Cory Holt, but without the downside, too.

Whitaker was suspended for the first half of spring practice after being arrested for misdemeanor alcohol charges shortly before spring drills began. It says something—either about him or the other candidates—that he was able to get into the mix quickly upon his return, despite taking part in only half of spring practice.

Sophomore tailback Branden Ore was not enrolled this spring while rehabbing a surgically repaired shoulder. If he stays healthy and overcomes some academic struggles, he'll likely gain 1,000 yards. Redshirt sophomore George Bell was listed as the team's top tailback in spring ball. The Hokies also got good news when it was determined that redshirt freshman Elan Lewis doesn't need season-ending knee surgery. He injured the knee late in spring practice, but is expected to be ready for the fall. Kenny Lewis, a 2003 signee who played three years of minor league baseball, enrolled in January and will provide some options in the backfield and in the return game. His father is a former Tech standout who held the school's single-game rushing record for 25 years.

John Kinzer, the only tight end with experience, may not play again because of recurring problems with stingers in his neck. An interesting thing to watch as preseason progresses is the development of converted quarterback Greg Boone. A 6-4, 270-pound redshirt freshman, Boone fell behind in the quarterback race because of a knee injury and tonsillitis. But he's a versatile-enough athlete that the coaches see him as a contributor in 2006 at the

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Coastal:
11-2	7-1

(beat Louisville in the Gator Bowl, 35-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Northeastern	
S.9	@NORTH CAROLINA	30-3
S.16	Duke	45-0
S.23	Cincinnati	
S.30	Georgia Tech	51-7
O.12	@BOSTON COLLEGE	30-10
O.21	Southern Miss	
O.26	Clemson	
N.4	@MIAMI (FL)	7-27
N.11	Kent State	
N.18	@WAKE FOREST	
N.25	Virginia	52-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This is annually one of the bigger games in the country, let alone the ACC.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/18

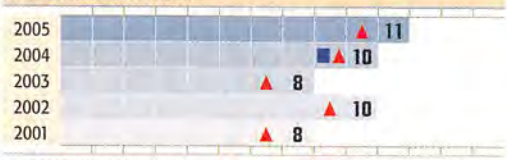
OFFENSE		
QB	7	Sean Glennon (6-4, 215, r-So.)
FB	37	Jesse Allen (6-0, 243, r-Sr.)
TB	34	George Bell (5-10, 220, r-So.)
LT	76	Duane Brown (6-5, 278, r-Jr.)
LG	70	Sergio Render (6-3, 300, Fr.)
C	69	Danny McGrath (6-2, 287, r-Sr.)
RG	67	Nick Marshman (6-5, 346, r-So.)
RT	74	Brandon Frye (6-4, 302, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Sam Wheeler (6-3, 240, r-Fr.)
SE	2	Josh Morgan (6-1, 215, Jr.)
FL	4	Eddie Royal (5-10, 174, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	49	Chris Ellis (6-5, 250, r-Jr.)
NT	99	Carlton Powell (6-2, 292, r-Jr.)
DT	59	Barry Booker (6-4, 279, r-Jr.)
DE	96	Noland Burchette (6-2, 260, r-Sr.)
MIKE	9	Vince Hall (6-0, 236, r-Jr.)
ILB	11	Xavier Adibi (6-2, 224, r-Jr.)
WHIP	31	Brenden Hill (6-1, 197, r-Sr.)
CB	18	Brandon Flowers (5-10, 187, r-So.)
CB	15	Roland Minor (6-0, 205, r-Jr.)
FS	25	D.J. Parker (5-11, 184, Jr.)
ROV	36	Aaron Rouse (6-4, 221, r-Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	46	Brandon Pace (5-10, 196, r-Sr.)
P	23	Nic Schmitt (6-2, 273, r-Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Jason Adjepong**, DE, 6-3, 248 *Jersey product stingy on the edge.*
2	**Aaron Brown**, OT, 6-6, 290 *One of the top prospects in the Cincinnati area.*
3	**Ladi Ajiboye**, DT, 6-2, 290 *One of several touted D-Line recruits.*
4	**Mike Gee**, DE, 6-1, 228 *Another touted Jersey defender.*
5	**John Graves**, DE, 6-3, 249 *All-state Virginia player who should help soon.*

Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,115)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Frank Beamer, 20th year (146-79-2)
Career record: 188-102-4
Assistant coaches: Assistant coaches: Billy Hite (assoc. head coach/RBs), Bryan Stinespring (off. coord./TEs), Bud Foster (def. coord./ILBs), Curt Newsome (off. line), Kevin Sherman (WRs), Jim Cavanaugh (recruiting coord./SS/OLBs), Mike O'Cain (QBs), Torrian Gray (def. backs), Charley Wiles (def. line)

Josh Morgan, WR

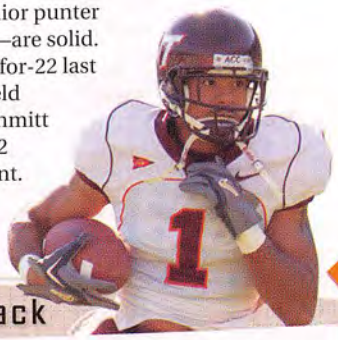
H-back slot. He can run, catch, block and even throw every now and then out of that spot.

The offensive line is solid at tackle with senior Brandon Frye and junior Duane Brown, but the unit has to replace three players who made either first- or second-team All-ACC last season. Senior center Danny McGrath did well when he played last year, though a shoulder injury forced him to sit out much of the spring. Sergio Render, a true-freshman guard who enrolled in January, is expected to become a starter.

The one place on offense where Tech has no worries is receiver. Senior David Clowney led the Hokies in catches last season, while junior Eddie Royal led them the year before. The best of a five-deep receiving corps is probably junior Josh Morgan. Juniors Josh Hyman and Justin Harper round out the pass-catching corps.

All are capable of making plenty of receptions—assuming Tech finds someone to get them the ball.

Tech's specialists—senior kicker Brandon Pace and senior punter Nic Schmitt—are solid. Pace was 19-for-22 last season on field goals and Schmitt averaged 43.2 yards per punt.



NEXT BIG THING

MACHO HARRIS, sophomore cornerback

Virginia Tech coaches have a new motto: "Bring on the Macho man."

Just who is the Macho man? He is sophomore Victor "Macho" Harris, a gifted young player who may never leave the field this season. During spring practice, Harris dazzled coaches and teammates with a stint at tailback and then moved over to defensive back, where he gave the Hokies hope of finding a suitable replacement for departed star corner Jimmy Williams.

And, oh, by the way, Harris also figures prominently into Coach Frank Beamer's beloved special teams. He will probably be a kick and punt returner and perhaps take on additional duties.

"Macho needs to be a corner for us and then we need to see what else we can do with him," Beamer says. "He's a special talent. We may try to play him both ways next year. We're looking at several possibilities."

Bouncing between offensive and defensive backfields is nothing new for Harris, who concentrated solely on defense as a Virginia Tech freshman. In high school, he was the *Richmond Times-Dispatch's* prep Player of the Year after rushing for nearly 2,400 yards his senior season. Harris also earned all-state honors as a defensive back.

The cornerback role is crucial for Virginia Tech, says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis.

"If he plays well, that would really nullify the blow of losing Jimmy Williams," Davis says. "Looking at Macho Harris, with his versatility, I think he could easily slide back and forth [between offense and defense], but I think defense will be his calling card."

Despite the early accolades, Harris isn't satisfied. Instead, coaches say, he only wants to get better.

"This kid is hungry," says Torrian Gray, Virginia Tech's secondary coach. "Sometimes kids tell you they want to work and get better, but they don't follow up on it. Macho means it. He is a great person."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	VT	OPP
SCORING	440	168
Points Per Game	33.8	12.9
FIRST DOWNS	282	179
Rushing	148	78
Passing	113	85
Penalty	21	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	2479	1214
Yards gained rushing	2851	1584
Yards lost rushing	372	370
Rushing Attempts	599	402
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.0
Average Per Game	190.7	93.4
TDs Rushing	30	6
PASSING YARDAGE	2473	2005
Att-Comp-Int	301-181-10	387-192-19
Average Per Pass	8.2	5.2
Average Per Catch	13.7	10.4
Average Per Game	190.2	154.2
TDs Passing	18	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	4952	3219
Total Plays	900	789
Average Per Play	5.5	4.1
Average Per Game	380.9	247.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	24-457	49-1012
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	46-408	18-230
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-320	10-65
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.0	20.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.9	12.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.8	6.5
FUMBLES-LOST	27-	16-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	81-697	91-751
Average Per Game	53.6	57.8
PUNTS-YARDS	52-2244	83-3493
Average Per Punt	43.2	42.1
Net punt average	34.5	36.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:37	27:23
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/170	60/186
3rd-Down Pct	42%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/15	8/14
4th-Down Pct	60%	57%
SACKS BY-YARDS	37-219	34-222
MISC YARDS	20	5
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	55	19
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-22	12-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	51-52	18-18
ATTENDANCE	390690	260889
Games/Avg Per Game	6/65115	5/52178
Neutral Site Games		2/68264

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	74	106	137	123	440
Opponents	27	50	61	30	168

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Marcus Vick

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	143.3	177-289-10	61.2	2393	17	184.1

Cory Holt

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	116.8	4-12-0	33.3	80	1	13.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Cedric Humes	12	162	752	4.6	11	62.7
Branden Ore	12	109	647	5.9	6	53.9
Mike Imoh	9	106	419	4.0	4	46.6

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
David Clowney	13	34	619	18.2	3	47.6
Josh Morgan	13	28	471	16.8	4	36.2
Eddie Royal	13	27	315	11.7	2	24.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Vince Hall	13	43	69	112
James Anderson	13	41	41	82
Aaron Rouse	13	35	42	77

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Darryl Tapp	13	10.0	58
Chris Ellis	13	6.0	33
Jonathan Lewis	13	4.5	40

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Aaron Rouse	4	52	1.0	0
Justin Hamilton	3	60	1.0	0
Roland Minor	3	62	1.0	1

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Coastal:
7-5	5-3

(lost to Utah in the Emerald Bowl, 38-10)

Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲	7
2004	▲	7
2003	▲	7
2002	▲	7
2001	▲	8

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✸ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Chan Gailey, 5th year (28-22)
Career record: 52-33
Assistant coaches: Joe D'Alessandris (off. line), Buddy Geis (asst. head coach/WRs), Jeep Hunter (TEs), Brian Jean-Mary (LBs), Charles Kelly (special teams), Curtis Modkins (RBs), Patrick Nix (off. coord./QBs), Giff Smith (def. line/recruiting coord.), Jon Tenuta (assoc. head coach/def. coord./def. backs)

Yellow Jackets looking to have a real 'Ball' after years of consistent mediocrity under Chan Gailey

ACC COASTAL

Consistency, thy name is Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets finished 7-5 in 2005, the ninth straight season they've won at least seven games. Moreover, Georgia Tech is one of only six teams to have played in a bowl each of the past nine seasons.

None of that, however, means Tech fans are especially pleased with the state of the program, particularly in light of archrival Georgia's ascent under Coach Mark Richt. In four seasons under Chan Gailey, the Jackets have never finished better than 7-5. Worse, after posting a 5-3 record in ACC play last season, Tech was snubbed by the bowls it coveted and ended up in San Francisco. Utah embarrassed the Yellow Jackets 38-10 in the Emerald Bowl.

Will Gailey's long-awaited breakthrough—an eight- or nine-win season—finally come this fall? That's not an impossible goal for Tech, which opens against Notre Dame in Atlanta. The Jackets lost four players who made the All-ACC second team in 2005, but they return one of the nation's finest receivers (Calvin Johnson), a solid nucleus on both sides of the ball and one of the game's most creative defensive coordinators (Jon Tenuta).

How high Georgia Tech climbs in the Coastal Division standings figures to hinge in large part on quarterback Reggie Ball, who can make breathtaking plays and mystifying decisions in the same series. Heading into his fourth season as a starter, Ball is the third-leading passer in school history, with 6,308 yards. He's thrown 37 touchdown passes and rushed for more than 1,000 yards. But he's also thrown 41 career interceptions.

Eight starters return on offense, and they're joined by Mansfield Wrotto, a three-year starter on the defensive line who's now at tackle. Johnson is among those veterans who will make Ball's job easier. The 6-4, 235-pound junior, a two-time All-ACC pick, has caught 102 passes for 1,725 yards and 13 touchdowns as a Jacket.

Also back on offense are junior fullback Mike Cox, senior tight end George Cooper and four first-team linemen: junior center Kevin Tuminello, sophomore tackle Andrew Gardner and junior guards Matt Rhodes and Nate McManus. Garner was a Freshman All-American last year. Georgia Tech allowed only 10 sacks in 2005, the fewest of any ACC team.

At tailback, junior Tashard Choice takes over for P.J. Daniels (second-team All-ACC), while Rashaun Grant and Jamaal Evans should provide capable support.

Tenuta has more work ahead of him than does Offensive Coordinator Patrick Nix, the former Auburn quarterback. Gone from a defense that picked off an ACC-best 21 passes are three second-team all-conference picks: end Eric Henderson, linebacker Gerris Wilkinson and safety Dawan Landry. Also, Joe Gaston, Tech's most experienced returning safety, suffered a serious knee injury in the spring and might miss this season.

To shore up the secondary, Tech moved Jamal Lewis from cornerback to safety and shifted Pat Clark from wideout to cornerback.

The returning starters on defense are junior end Adamm Oliver, senior tackle Joe Anoai, senior linebacker KaMichael Hall, junior linebacker Philip Wheeler (four interceptions in 2005) and senior cornerback Kenny Scott. Hall and Wheeler had four sacks apiece last season. Also back is sophomore Darryl Richard, a 6-4, 285-pound defensive tackle. Richard was expected to start in 2005, but missed the season after hurting his right knee.

The Jackets hope placekicker Travis Bell can regain the form he showed in 2004, when he was a Freshman All-America choice. Bell was only 11-for-21 on field goals last season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Osahon Tongo**, LB, 6-2, 225
Top recruit in a small class of 15 prospects.
2. **Bryon Ingram**, QB, 6-5, 190
Lots of potential for son of former NFL player.
3. **Jamaal Evans**, RB, 5-8, 200
Texan had big high school reputation.
4. **Ben Anderson**, DL, 6-2, 265
South Carolina product could help immediately on D-line.
5. **Damaryius Thomas**, WR, 6-4, 215
Rangy wideout is tough to defend.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Notre Dame	
S.9	Samford	
S.16	Troy	
S.21	VIRGINIA	17-27
S.30	@VIRGINIA TECH	7-51
O.7	Maryland	
O.21	@CLEMSON	10-9
O.28	Miami (FL)	14-10
N.4	@N.C. STATE	14-17
N.11	@NORTH CAROLINA	27-21
N.18	Duke	35-10
N.25	@GEORGIA	7-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

In this Thursday night ESPN showcase, the Yellow Jackets will try to end their three-game skid against the Cavaliers.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

OFFENSE		
QB	1	Reggie Ball (5-11, 195, Sr.)
FB	40	Mike Cox (6-1, 245, Jr.)
TB	22	Tashard Choice (6-1, 205, r-Jr.)
LT	64	Andrew Gardner (6-6, 290, r-So.)
LG	61	Matt Rhodes (6-3, 285, r-Jr.)
C	60	Kevin Tuminello (6-4, 285, r-Jr.)
RG	73	Nate McManus (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	68	Mansfield Wrotto (6-3, 310, Sr.)
TE	80	George Cooper (6-5, 260, r-Sr.)
WR	21	Calvin Johnson (6-4, 235, Jr.)
WR	89	James Johnson (6-0, 190, r-So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	90	Darrell Robertson (6-5, 240, Jr.)
DT	95	Darryl Richard (6-4, 285, r-So.)
DT	96	Joe Anoai (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DE	42	Adamm Oliver (6-4, 265, r-Jr.)
LB	35	KaMichael Hall (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LB	58	Gary Guyton (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	41	Philip Wheeler (6-2, 225, r-Jr.)
CB	34	Avery Roberson (6-2, 200, r-Jr.)
CB	2	Kenny Scott (6-2, 185, Sr.)
S	4	Jamal Lewis (6-0, 190, Jr.)
S	23	Djay Jones (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	87	Travis Bell (6-0, 210, r-Jr.)
P	39	Durant Brooks (6-1, 198, r-Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

It's a rebuilding year in Hooville, as early NFL departures rob UVa.

If the Cavaliers (7-5, 3-5) can reduce the high rate of attrition that has depleted the program during Al Groh's tenure as coach, they could contend for the Coastal Division title in 2007. First, however, they have to get through the 2006 season, which may be challenging for a team short on experience.

Twelve players who started at least five games apiece last year have left the team, a group led by All-America offensive tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson, the No. 4 pick in the NFL Draft. And that doesn't include kickoff specialist Kurt Smith, a sixth-round pick, or safety Nate Lyles, a 2005 starter who's recovering from neck surgery and may not be cleared to play this fall.

Six starters return on both sides of the ball. Departed standouts include kicker Connor Hughes, who scored a school-record 332 points; tailback Wali Lundy, who totaled an ACC-record 52 touchdowns; and quarterback Marques Hagans, who threw 27 TD passes in his career. Also gone are defensive end Brennan Schmidt, who tied the ACC record with 51 career starts; linebacker Kai Parham, who was first-team All-ACC in 2005; and linebacker Ahmad Brooks, a former Butkus Award finalist whom Groh kicked off the team.

"We have a significant rebuilding job in front of us," says Groh, who has four assistants who weren't at Virginia last season, among them new coordinators for defense, offense and special teams.

Groh's fifth season as coach at his alma mater ended on a high note when Virginia rallied to upset Minnesota 34-31 in the Music City Bowl. Hagans dazzled in that game, and replacing him won't be easy. Fifth-year senior Christian Olsen, a dropback passer who has yet to start a college game, goes into training camp as the Cavaliers' No. 1 quarterback.

In juniors Tom Santi and Jonathan Stupar, who combined for 43 catches and 677 yards receiving in 2005, and sophomore John Phillips, the Cavs have perhaps the nation's top set of tight ends. The receiving corps is another strength. Senior Deyon Williams caught 58 passes for 767 yards and seven touchdowns in 2005, making honorable-mention All-ACC, and classmate Fontel Mines (28 catches, 345 yards) is another returning starter. Throw in the fleet Andrew Pearman, who sat out last season after transferring from Hawaii, and Virginia has an abundance of good targets. Pearman follows in the footsteps of his brother, former Virginia tailback and current Jacksonville Jaguar Alvin Pearman, and will wear the same number (21).

Not so clear, however, is whether Olsen will have time to find those receivers or whether

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	ACC Coastal:
7-5	3-5

(beat Minnesota in the Music City Bowl, 34-31)

S.2	@PITTSBURGH	
S.9	Wyoming	
S.16	Western Michigan	31-19
S.21	@GEORGIA TECH	27-17
S.30	@DUKE	38-7
O.7	@EAST CAROLINA	
O.14	Maryland	33-45
O.19	North Carolina	5-7
O.28	North Carolina State	
N.4	@FLORIDA STATE	26-21
N.18	Miami (FL)	17-25
N.25	@VIRGINIA TECH	14-52

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Cavaliers can win their opener, they very well could be 6-0 or 5-1 heading into their Oct. 14 clash with Maryland in Charlottesville.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 32/17

OFFENSE		
QB	11	Christian Olsen (6-3, 216, Sr.)
FB	38	Jason Snelling (5-11, 233, Sr.)
TB	2	Michael Johnson (5-9, 199, Sr.)
LT	75	Eugene Monroe (6-6, 318, So.)
LG	71	Branden Albert (6-7, 306, So.)
C	77	Ian-Yates Cunningham (6-3, 291, Jr.)
RG	78	Marshal Ausberry (6-5, 309, Jr.)
RT	72	Eddie Pinigis (6-7, 292, Jr.)
TE	86	Tom Santi (6-5, 238, Jr.)
WR	81	Deyon Williams (6-3, 185, Sr.)
WR	84	Fontel Mines (6-4, 217, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	Chris Long (6-4, 278, Jr.)
NT	94	Allen Billyk (6-4, 278, Jr.)
DE	93	Alex Field (6-7, 261, So.)
OLB	51	Clint Sintim (6-3, 242, So.)
ILB	58	Antonio Appleby (6-4, 244, So.)
ILB	54	Jon Copper (6-0, 226, So.)
OLB	57	Jermaine Dias (6-1, 235, Jr.)
CB	39	Chris Gorham (6-0, 188, Jr.)
CB	3	Marcus Hamilton (5-11, 187, Sr.)
S	21	Byron Glaspy (5-11, 195, So.)
S	27	Jamaal Jackson (6-3, 214, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	9	Chris Gould (6-1, 216, Jr.)
P	16	Ryan Weigand (6-2, 177, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500)

UVa.'s running backs, a group led by rugged senior Jason Snelling and sophomore Cedric Peerman, will have holes through which to run. None of the Cavaliers' offensive linemen is a senior, and only two starters return. One of them, sophomore guard Branden Albert, might not be academically eligible this fall. Junior Marshal Ausberry is back at the other guard spot, and sophomore Eugene Monroe, Ferguson's replacement, is enormously gifted, but the other linemen are largely unproven.

Groh's new defensive coordinator, Mike London, returned to Charlottesville after one year as a Houston Texans assistant. London's charges include but one senior—cornerback Marcus Hamilton, who led the ACC with six interceptions and made the all-conference second team last year. The defense was expected to be more experienced, but Parham left early to pursue his NFL dream, and three other probable starters, including Brooks and safety Tony Franklin, were kicked off the team in the offseason.

Virginia, whose base defense is the 3-4, recorded only 19 sacks last season, the second fewest in the ACC, and Parham had nearly half of them. The Cavs need to generate more of a pass rush this year, and junior end Chris Long, son of Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Howie Long, has big-play ability. Long's fellow linemen include junior nose tackles Allen Billyk and Keenan Carter, redshirt-freshman end Jeffrey Fitzgerald and sophomore end Alex Field.

If sophomore linebackers Clint Sintim and Antonio Appleby earn All-ACC honors one day, it won't be a surprise. Sintim starts on the outside and Appleby on the inside. Junior Jermaine Dias also returns at outside linebacker, but his contribution so far has been modest.

Virginia is uncharacteristically deep and talented at cornerback, where redshirt freshman Vic Hall, sophomores Chris Cook and Mike Brown and junior Chris Gorham join Hamilton. There's less experience at safety, but sophomore Byron Glaspy and junior Jamaal Jackson, Virginia's starters in the Music City Bowl, are back. If Lyles is cleared to play again, he has All-ACC potential.

Head coach: Al Groh, 6th year (37-26)
Career record: 63-66
Assistant coaches: Mike London (def. coord./def. line), Steve Bernstein (asst. head coach/def. backs), Bob Diaco (special teams coord./LBs), Levern Belin (def. asst./asst. def. line), Mike Groh (off. coord./recruiting coord./QBs), John Garrett (asst. head coach off./WRs), Dave Borbely (running game coord./off. line), Bob Price (asst. recruiting coord./TEs), Anthony Poindexter (asst. special teams coord./RBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Keith Payne**, RB, 6-3, 195
State Player of Year came on strong.
2. **B.J. Cabbell**, OL, 6-6, 295
Promising blocker who comes up big in the trenches.
3. **Asa Chapman**, OL, 6-5, 330
Man/mountain blocks out sun.
4. **DeAndre Filer**, DB, 5-10, 168
Skilled athlete from Tidewater area.
5. **Ras-I Dowling**, WR, 6-2, 180
Another skill player from Tidewater.

CHAPEL HILL

NORTH CAROLINA
TAR HEELS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲6
2003	2
2002	3
2001	▲8

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL*
✳ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: John Bunting, 6th year (24-36)
Career record: 62-50-2
Stadium: Kenan Stadium
Capacity: 60,000
Official athletic Web site: www.tarheelblue.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Rutgers	
S.9	Virginia Tech	3-30
S.16	Furman	
S.23	@CLEMSON	
O.7	@MIAMI (FL)	16-34
O.14	South Florida	
O.19	@VIRGINIA	7-5
O.28	Wake Forest	
N.4	@NOTRE DAME	
N.11	Georgia Tech	21-27
N.18	North Carolina State	31-24
N.25	@DUKE	24-21

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Carolina hasn't won in Charlottesville since 1981, but the breakthrough may come this year.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/23

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Joe Dailey (6-1, 205, Jr.)
FB	43	Nick Starcevic (6-2, 235, So.)
TB	25	Ronnie McGill (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LT	65	Brian Chacos (6-4, 301, Sr.)
LG	77	Charlston Gray (6-3, 301, Jr.)
C	63	Ben Lemming (6-5, 301, So.)
RG	72	Kyle Jolly (6-6, 300, Fr.)
RT	73	Garrett Reynolds (6-7, 300, So.)
TE	86	Jon Hamlett (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	9	Jesse Holley (6-3, 208, Sr.)
WR	88	Brooks Foster (6-3, 200, So.)
DEFENSE		
LE	42	Brian Rackley (6-5, 263, Sr.)
DT	75	Shelton Bynum (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DT	74	Kyndraus Guy (6-2, 282, Jr.)
RE	90	Kentwan Balmer (6-5, 285, Jr.)
SLB	32	Larry Edwards (6-3, 230, Sr.)
MLB	48	Durell Mapp (6-2, 220, Jr.)
WLB	44	Chase Rice (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	16	Jacoby Watkins (6-0, 190, Sr.)
CB	3	Quinton Person (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS	27	Kareen Taylor (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS	31	Trimane Goddard (5-11, 185, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Connor Barth (6-1, 192, Jr.)
P	45	David Woolridge (6-2, 200, Sr.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **4-4 ACC**

A season ago, North Carolina beat four teams that ended up in bowls: N.C. State, Utah, Virginia and N.C. State. That was a small consolation for the Tar Heels (5-6, 4-4). They spent the postseason at home, in part because they'd again chosen to play a rugged out-of-conference schedule (Wisconsin, Utah and Louisville).

The Tar Heels have scheduled less ambitiously this season, and the result may be a trip to a bowl for sixth-year Coach John Bunting's squad. Carolina also should benefit from the addition of Frank Cignetti, one of three new assistants. Cignetti, the Heels' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, oversaw high-scoring offenses at his previous stop, Fresno State.

UNC has an experienced nucleus on each side of the ball, with talented young players in complementary roles. Of the five returning starters on offense, four are seniors, and the other is a junior. Five of the seven starters back on defense are seniors.

The Tar Heels ranked second to last in the ACC in rushing offense last year, even with Kyle Ralph, a first-team all-conference pick, at guard. Ralph is gone, but if Bunting can surround returning linemen Brian Chacos (tackle) and Charlston Gray (guard) with capable blockers, the running game should be more potent. When he's healthy, senior Ronnie McGill is one of the ACC's better tailbacks, and junior Barrington Edwards has shown promise. Between them, they rushed for 927 yards and seven touchdowns in 2005.

Senior Jon Hamlett (21 catches, 212 yards) returns at tight end, and senior Jesse Holley is one of the ACC's top wideouts. In 2005, the 6-3, 208-pound Holley caught 47 passes for 670 yards.

Getting the football to Holley will be redshirt freshman Cam Sexton or junior Joe Dailey, who sat out last season after transferring from Nebraska, where he started 11 games in 2004. Dailey passed for 2,025 yards and 17 TDs—with 19 interceptions—for the Cornhuskers as a sophomore.

Seven starters are back on defense, including sophomore safety Trimane Goddard, who led UNC with three interceptions. The most experienced defender is senior linebacker Larry Edwards, an All-ACC candidate who has 21 career starts and tied for the team lead in tackles last season.

DURHAM, N.C.

DUKE
BLUE DEVILS

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	2
2003	4
2002	2
2001	0

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL*
✳ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Ted Roof, 3rd year (5-22)
Career record: 5-22
Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium
Capacity: 33,941
Official athletic Web site: www.goduke.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	RICHMOND	
S.9	@WAKE FOREST	6-44
S.16	@VIRGINIA TECH	0-45
S.30	Virginia	7-38
O.7	@ALABAMA	
O.14	Florida State	24-55
O.21	Miami (FL)	7-52
O.28	Vanderbilt	
N.4	Navy	21-28
N.11	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
N.18	@GEORGIA TECH	10-35
N.25	North Carolina	21-24

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The Spiders were among the better teams in Division I-AA last season, but this is a game Duke must win. A loss would dampen any optimism in Durham.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/30

OFFENSE		
QB	13	Zack Asack (6-4, 200, So.)
FB	2	Tielor Robinson (5-11, 245, Jr.)
RB	20	Justin Boyle (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LT	74	Cameron Goldberg (6-6, 280,
LG	76	Zach Maurides (6-6, 290, Jr.)
C	68	Matt Rumsey (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RG	61	Rob Schirmann (6-5, 285, So.)
RT	70	Fred Roland (6-8, 310, So.)
TE	80	Nick Stefanow (6-4, 235, Jr.)
WR	81	Jomar Wright (6-1, 200, Jr.)
WR	15	Eron Riley (6-3, 200, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	52	Eli Nichols (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DT	51	Casey Camero (6-5, 280, Sr.)
NG	3	Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 310,
DE	84	Patrick Bailey (6-4, 230, Jr.)
SLB	58	Codey Lowe (6-2, 235, Sr.)
MLB	34	Michael Tauiliili (5-11, 235, So.)
WLB	25	Jeramy Edwards (6-0, 220, Sr.)
CB	11	John Talley (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB	10	Deonto McCormick (5-10,
FS	27	Chris Davis (6-0, 205, Jr.)
SS	16	Andreas Platt (6-2, 200, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	26	Joe Surgan (6-4, 210, So.)
P	12	Alex Feinberg (6-0, 210, Jr.)

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, **0-8 ACC**

Cornerback John Talley, who made the All-ACC second team in 2004, earned first-team honors last season. For the Blue Devils (1-10, 0-8), there weren't many other highlights in Ted Roof's second full season as their coach. Duke's only win was over Division I-AA Virginia Military Institute, and Roof's club surrendered 35 or more points in seven games.

Unfortunately for Roof, who has worked tirelessly to try to turn things around in Durham, another miserable season seems likely for the Devils. Duke returns only 13 starters, the second fewest of any ACC team.

Especially depleted was Roof's offense, which must replace seven starters, including the players who ranked 1-3 in receptions last season: H-back Ben Patrick, tight end Andy Roland and wideout Ronnie Elliott. And to say Duke has four starters back on offense is probably stretching things. Two of those listed as returning first-teamers—sophomore wide receiver Eron Riley and junior tailback Justin Boyle—made just seven starts between them.

The good news for Offensive Coordinator Bill O'Brien is that his top three rushers from 2005 are back: Boyle (458 yards), junior Ronnie Drummer (337) and sophomore Re'quan Boyette (252). The bad news: Junior center Matt Rumsey is the lone starter back on the line, so the holes for those runners may not be very wide or stay open very long.

Seven true freshmen started at least one game for the Devils last season, and Roof used 14 in all. Among the most prominent was quarterback Zack Asack, who started six of the final seven games. Asack completed 90 of 180 passes for 966 yards and five touchdowns in nine games. He was intercepted eight times.

Roof hasn't handed the starting job to Asack yet. Also in the mix is sophomore Marcus Jones, who played both QB and wideout last season. Jones started five games at receiver and finished the season with 11 catches for 90 yards and one touchdown.

Duke's top returning receiver is Riley, who had 11 catches for 247 yards and two TDs last year.

The outlook for the Devils' defense is brighter. Seven starters return, most notably Talley, whose 11 career interceptions is tied for the lead among returning Division I-A players.

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Brandon Myles**, WR, West Virginia	*Most elusive RB*	**Michael Bush**, Louisville	*Top NFL prospect*	**Michael Bush**, RB Louisville
Best hands	**Clark Harris**, TE, Rutgers	*Best instincts*	**Steve Slaton**, RB, West Virginia	*Top impact freshman*	**Delone Carter**, RB, Syracuse
Best passing QB	**Brian Brohm**, Louisville	*Best athlete*	**Amarri Jackson**, WR, South Florida	*Hardest hitter*	**H.B. Blades**, LB, Pittsburgh
Best running QB	**Pat White**, West Virginia	*Best under pressure*	**Tyler Palko**, QB, Pittsburgh	*Biggest underachiever*	**Perry Patterson**, QB, Syracuse

BIG EAST CONFERENCE

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Can anyone force West Virginia to pass?** South Florida has the linebackers to apply pressure, but might not keep the game close enough. An emerging Pittsburgh squad could make things interesting.
2. **Who will be more fun to watch: West Virginia's Pat White and Steve Slaton or Louisville's Brian Brohm and Michael Bush?** It might be a matter of taste. Rich Rodriguez's spread offense is flashier, but Louisville's duo offers a more balanced attack.
3. **What early NFL entry will be the most missed?** Connecticut will be fine with Terry Caulley taking over for Cornell Brockington, but Pitt will miss big flanker Greg Lee.
4. **Which team is for real: Rutgers or South Florida?** They're both legit, but their records might not show it with West Virginia and Louisville dominant and Pitt on the rebound.
5. **Will Syracuse win a conference game?** It might be tough as the Orange play the top foes at home and lesser opponents on the road. At home against Connecticut Nov. 18 might be the best bet.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **PITTSBURGH**: Dave Wannstedt delivered a top-25 class. Tight end Nate Byham, RB Kevin Collier and DL Jason Pinkston could play immediately.
2. **LOUISVILLE**: Late pickups of safety Brandon Heath and DE Deantwan Whitehead boosted the Cards into the top 25 nationally.
3. **WEST VIRGINIA**: Mountaineers bring in a small but solid class headlined by wide receiver John Maddox.
4. **RUTGERS**: Scarlet Knights are making inroads in Florida even as they lose New Jersey kids. Scored a coup when in-state CB/RB Kordell Young pulled out of a commitment to Virginia.
5. **SOUTH FLORIDA**: Bulls starting to compete for big-time in-state recruits. Biggest scores were DT Leslie Stirrups of Tampa and DE Joseph Jackson of Miami.
6. **SYRACUSE**: Running back Delone Carter, QB Andrew Robinson and WR Andrey Baskin will form a nice nucleus for 2007 and beyond.
7. **CONNECTICUT**: Cornerback James Nixon turned down big-time programs in favor of the Huskies. Wideout Brad Kanuch was also a good pickup.
8. **CINCINNATI**: The Bearcats signed mostly second-tier players, but did score a coup by luring DT Oren Wilson away from New Jersey and Rutgers.

With a legit national-title contender in Morgantown, renovated Big East has nothing to be ashamed of

By **PETE WILLIAMS** *Street & Smith's Correspondent*

When Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College departed for the ACC, many figured they would take the "Big" in Big East with them. The reconfigured version, a geographic hodgepodge of holdovers and Conference USA additions, did not seem worthy of an automatic BCS bid.

What a difference a year makes.

Nobody is going to mistake the new Big East for the SEC or ACC, but few schools are lining up to play non-conference games against a league in which every team seems to be on the upswing.

Each of the eight teams has played in a bowl game at least once over the last two seasons, an accomplishment no other conference can boast. Anyone still wondering if the Big East lacks a true national-title contender hasn't spent much time in Morgantown lately.

A steady parade of representatives from big-name college programs visited West Virginia during the offseason to study Rich Rodriguez's version of the spread offense. The Big East Coach of the Year welcomed the visitors, but it's doubtful anyone has the personnel to replicate the potent Mountaineers attack.

With run-first quarterback Pat White and true sophomore Steve Slaton at tailback, Rodriguez has arguably the youngest, most explosive tandem in the nation. The Mountaineers, who finished an 11-1 season on a seven-game winning streak, don't pass much and might be hard-pressed to do so extensively. But with an experienced defense and White and Slaton providing the offense, that might not matter.

If White and Slaton are the flashiest duo, then Louisville's Brian Brohm, running back Michael Bush and wide receiver Mario Urrutia form the top trio. The Cardinals were a popular preseason national-title darkhorse last season. They're well-armed again this year, but Bobby Petrino's squad will need to avoid the type of epic collapses it had against South Florida and West Virginia in 2005.

Coach Dave Wannstedt wants people to think his Pittsburgh Panthers are rebuilding. After all, they're coming off a 5-6 season and bring in one of the nation's better recruiting classes. But with NFL-ready linebacker H.B. Blades heading an experienced defense and steady quarterback Tyler Palko back, Wannstedt should be able to plug the remaining holes with several talented true freshmen. The Panthers also have the most favorable breakdown of home/road matchups in the conference.

Rutgers can no longer be considered an automatic conference win. The Scarlet Knights have underrated weapons in tailback Ray Rice, fullback Brian Leonard and tight end Clark Harris.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Brian Brohm, Jr., Louisville	DL	Chris McKillop, Jr., Pittsburgh
WR	Mario Urrutia, So., Louisville	DL	Rhema Fuller, Sr., Connecticut
WR	Amarri Jackson, Jr., South Florida	DL	Amobi Okoye, Sr., Louisville
RB	Michael Bush, Sr., Louisville	DL	Keilen Dykes, Jr., West Virginia
RB	Steve Slaton, So., West Virginia	LB	H.B. Blades, Sr., Pittsburgh
TE	Clark Harris, Sr., Rutgers	LB	Stephen Nicholas, Sr., South Florida
OL	Dan Mozes, Sr., West Virginia	LB	Kevin McLee, Sr., West Virginia
OL	Theodric Watson, Sr., South Florida	DB	Darrelle Revis, Jr., Pittsburgh
OL	Kurt Quarterman, Sr., Louisville	DB	Eric Wicks, Sr., West Virginia
OL	Jeremy Sheffey, Sr., West Virginia	DB	Mike Jenkins, Jr., South Florida
OL	Pedro Sosa, Sr., Rutgers	DB	Mike Mickens, So., Cincinnati
PK	Art Carmody, Jr., Louisville	P	Brendan Carney, Sr., Syracuse

Predicted order of finish:

1. p. 36 STOCK: UP
2. p. 38 STOCK: STEADY
3. p. 40 STOCK: UP
4. p. 41 STOCK: STEADY
5. p. 42 STOCK: STEADY
6. p. 42 STOCK: UP
7. p. 43 STOCK: DOWN
8. p. 43 STOCK: STEADY

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

Steve Slaton, RB

BIG EAST

The Rich get richer as this group in Morgantown is darn 'Neer perfect

Last season was supposed to be a rebuilding one for West Virginia. Instead, the Mountaineers bulldozed the Big East, suffered a lone non-conference loss to Virginia Tech, placed an exclamation point on the season with a win over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, and finished No. 5 in the final *Associated Press* poll.

West Virginia has won at least a share of the last three Big East championships. Rich Rodriguez, the 2005 Big East Coach of the Year, now has arguably the most experienced and talented roster he's had as he enters his sixth year at the helm of his alma mater. Fifty-one lettermen return. Fifteen of them are starters, including nine on offense, and a weak non-league schedule has Mountaineers fans envisioning an undefeated season.

Not that the Mountaineers will sneak up on anyone. They're slated to play five games on national television this year.

Rodriguez runs the increasingly popular spread offense, a no-huddle, shotgun, run-first version that has attracted a parade of visitors from other programs to Morgantown looking for pointers. Though the team lines up in sets featuring three and even four wide receivers, the Mountaineers focus on the ground game. Not once did they pass for 200 yards in a single game last season. Quarterback Pat White rushed for 100 yards in four of his five starts.

White, just a redshirt sophomore, has plenty of help. Steve Slaton averaged nearly 113 yards per game as a true freshman. He tied a Big East record with six touchdowns in West Virginia's triple-overtime win over Louisville and earned Sugar Bowl MVP honors after rushing for 204 yards. Jason Gwaltney, a *Parade* All-American who was the more touted runner in last year's class, transferred to a junior college. Fullback Owen Schmitt is the unsung weapon in the offense, giving defenses fits with his size and speed.

The Mountaineers did not find a big-play wide receiver to replace Chris Henry last season, though 6-3 Brandon Myles, a senior with 4.3 speed, should draw some interest from NFL scouts. Rayshawn Bolden, a starter last year, is coming off a knee injury sustained in the Sugar Bowl and missed spring practice. Junior Darius Reynaud ranked second on the team in 2005 with 30 receptions for 297 yards and a team-best five touchdown receptions. He figures to assume a more prominent role, as does junior Brandon Barrett, who caught five passes for 111 yards and a TD in the spring game.

The offensive line returns mostly intact. The team has the best interior in the league with center Dan Mozes and right guard Jeremy Sheffey, both seniors, and left guard Ryan Stanchek, who joined White on several Freshman All-America teams. The 6-4, 290-pound Mozes figures to be among the top centers in the 2007 NFL Draft.

The tackle position is more unsettled, with replacements needed for Travis Garrett and Garin Justice. Replacing Garrett on the left side is vital and the front-runners there are Damien Crissey and Chris Bassler, who spent all of last season out recovering from knee surgery. Jake Figner, a sophomore, will get a look at Justice's right-tackle spot.

Because of the flashy offense, coordinator Jeff Casteel's defensive unit often gets overlooked. That's unfair since the defense ranked 15th nationally in total yards allowed, 13th in points allowed and 19th in rushing yards.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Ryan Brinson**, DB, 5-9, 175 *Prep school helped ex-Ohio standout.*
2	**Greg Davis**, DB, 6-2, 205 *Touted Virginia athlete might contribute early.*
3	**Eddie Davis**, DB, 5-11, 185 *Mountaineers needed depth in the secondary.*
4	**Eric Jobe**, DL, 6-2, 270 *Maryland product has plenty of potential.*
5	**John Maddox**, DB, 6-3, 170 *Two-way athlete boosts secondary haul.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	Big East:
11-1	7-0

(beat Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, 38-35)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Marshall	
S.9	Eastern Washington	
S.14	Maryland	31-19
S.23	@EAST CAROLINA	20-15
O.7	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O.14	Syracuse	15-7
O.20	@CONNECTICUT	45-13
N.2	@LOUISVILLE	46-44 (OT)
N.11	Cincinnati	38-0
N.16	@PITTSBURGH	45-13
N.25	South Florida	28-13
D.2	Rutgers	27-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This tough road rivalry game against improved Pitt on Thursday night looms as the Mountaineers' last big test.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/19

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Pat White (6-2, 185, So.)
FB	35	Owen Schmitt (6-3, 245, Jr.)
TB	10	Steve Slaton (5-10, 185, So.)
LT	71	Damien Crissey (6-4, 280, Sr.)
LG	62	Ryan Stanchek (6-4, 285, So.)
C	76	Dan Mozes (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RG	65	Jeremy Sheffey (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RT	73	Jake Figner (6-5, 285, So.)
TE	49	Josh Bailey (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	7	Brandon Myles (6-3, 190, Sr.)
WR	2	Darius Reynaud (5-10, 200, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DT	96	Keilen Dykes (6-4, 290, Jr.)
NT	98	Pat Liebig (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DE	92	Johnny Dingle (6-3, 255, Jr.)
LLB	55	Bobby Hathaway (6-1, 225, Jr.)
MLB	55	Jay Henry (6-2, 225, Sr.)
RLB	43	Kevin McLee (6-1, 255, Sr.)
CB	3	Larry Williams (6-1, 185, Jr.)
CB	6	Antonio Lewis (5-10, 190, Jr.)
BS	22	Ridwan Malik (6-1, 195, Jr.)
FS	18	Abraham Jones (6-1, 190, Sr.)
SS	41	Eric Wicks (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	40	Pat McAfee (6-1, 205, So.)
P	37	Scott Kozlowski (6-0, 190, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Rich Rodriguez, 6th year (39-22)
Career record: 39-22 (Division I-A)
Assistant coaches: Rick Trickett (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Casteel (def. coord./LBs), Calvin Magee (off. coord./RBs), Tony Gibson (def. backs), Herb Hand (TEs/recruiting coord.), Butch Jones (WRs), Bill Kirelawich (def. line), Bill Stewart (QBs/special teams), Bruce Tall (safeties)

Like the offense, the defense is unusual and complex. Casteel employs a 3-3-5 configuration, with three safeties, including a strong safety who acts as a hybrid outside linebacker. Any of the back eight can blitz or cover.

Casteel likes for the three down linemen to clog the lanes, letting the other eight make plays. Keilen Dykes, a junior, is a rising star. Pat Liebig has seen a lot of playing time and projects as the starter at nose guard, though coaches are high on incoming freshman Chris Neild, a linebacker/tight end in high school.

The linebacking corps is led by senior Kevin "Boo" McLee, who finished second on the team with 78 tackles and was first-team All-Big East. There is no better weakside linebacker in the conference. Middle linebacker Jay Henry, a senior, also returns, and the unit will receive a big boost from Barry "The Pipe" Wright, a transfer from Florida State who sat out last season. Wright, a one-time junior-college player who will be a senior, got lost on the depth chart in Tallahassee, but Mountaineer coaches are enamored with his speed. Reed Williams has made a successful move from inside to outside linebacker and will see some reps.

The Mountaineers must replace several key performers in the secondary, including Jahmile Addae and Mike Lorello, and might turn to their incoming class. There's no shortage of talent and speed among the rookies and returnees.

Senior Eric Wicks, a second-team all-conference safety, is an emerging star. Ridwan Malik, a junior, played behind Lorello last season and figures to move up on the depth chart. Antonio Lewis, best known for his returning skills, is a two-year letterman who projects as a starter at cornerback. The other corner slot could go to Greg "Hollywood" Davis, one of the top prep players in Virginia last season who chose the Mountaineers over Tennessee. He'll have a lot of competition from a field that includes Larry Williams and Ryan Brinson.

For the Mountaineers to make a run at the national title, the defense must be at least as good as last season. Newcomers Neild, Wright and Davis should raise the overall athleticism of the unit and the depth at secondary should offset the losses of Addae and Lorello.

As usual, the Mountaineers should have among the nation's better special teams, led by sophomore kicker Pat McAfee. Lewis was the main reason the Mountaineers ranked among the top 20 in both kickoff-return and punt-return yardage last year.

The biggest question mark is how White will perform if forced to pass. But with a potent defense, dominant offense and lighter schedule, the Mountaineers might not be playing from behind too often.

NEXT BIG THING

OWEN SCHMITT, junior fullback

Look out, Rudy. Here comes Owen Schmitt, a 245-pound fullback who came out of nowhere last season to spark a fearsome rushing attack at West Virginia.

Schmitt, who spent his freshman year at Division III Wisconsin-River Falls and then went in search of a Division I program willing to take him on, found little interest. West Virginia took a chance—but not too big.

Schmitt came to Morgantown as a walk-on. By the time the Mountaineers played Georgia in the Sugar Bowl last season, the bruising fullback was inevitably being described as a cult hero and opening sizable holes for the running tandem of Pat White and Steve Slaton.

"Owen Schmitt is just a great college football story," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "He was the only guy in the country who thought he could play at a higher level—and he was right. He's just a hammerhead, a guy who thinks something is wrong if he doesn't have five knockdowns a game."

Davis worries West Virginia fans may come to expect too much from Schmitt after a sterling Sugar Bowl that included an atypical 82 yards rushing, including a 54-yard rumble on a third-and-one play. Those rushing numbers aren't likely to be repeated, as Slaton and White will handle the ball most of the time.

Rushing yardage isn't what drives Schmitt, anyway. Nor is it the reason West Virginia coaches love the overachieving junior. As long as Schmitt retains his zealous workout regimen and blocking infatuation, the Mountaineers should be just fine.

"What I like about our offense is that I get to make a lot of big blocks," Schmitt says. "The idea is that you chip away, chip away and then something breaks. That's what Coach [Rich] Rodriguez loves to do."

Schmitt says WVU's players have already bought into Rodriguez's mantra for the upcoming season: "Stay hungry and stay humble."

After winning the Sugar Bowl—a step Schmitt says was a real breakthrough for a program rarely able to win major bowl games—and with the baffling backfield intact, West Virginia seems poised for another run (what else?) through the Big East.

"It's an amazing group," Schmitt says. "But we have to keep working. What we do on the practice field will determine what we do this season. I think we're willing to work hard again."

If Schmitt is any example, let there be no doubt about that.

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	WVU	OPP
SCORING	385	214
Points Per Game	32.1	17.8
FIRST DOWNS	225	212
Rushing	150	91
Passing	64	110
Penalty	11	11
RUSHING YARDAGE	3,269	1,316
Yards gained rushing	3,536	1,668
Yards lost rushing	267	352
Rushing Attempts	625	452
Average Per Rush	5.2	2.9
Average Per Game	272.4	109.7
TDs Rushing	34	14
PASSING YARDAGE	1,398	2,413
Att-Comp-Int	122-193-7	221-370-17
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.5
Average Per Catch	11.5	10.9
Average Per Game	116.5	201.1
TDs Passing	12	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4,667	3,729
Total Plays	818	822
Average Per Play	5.7	4.5
Average Per Game	388.9	310.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	32/738	44/847
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23/358	21/162
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17/151	7/76
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.1	19.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	7.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.9	10.9
FUMBLES-LOST	18-10	35-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	82-697	62-495
Average Per Game	58.1	41.2
PUNTS-YARDS	57-2,190	67-2,642
Average Per Punt	38.4	39.4
Net punt average	35.6	34.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:57	29:03
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/174	66/179
3rd-Down Pct.	45%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/14	10/22
4th-Down Pct.	64%	45%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-194	18-95
MISC YARDS	14	14
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	26
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-18	12-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	48-49	22-23
ATTENDANCE	337,720	190,715
Games/Avg Per Game	6/56,287	5/38,143
Neutral Site Games		1/74,458

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
West Virginia	98	114	53	98	22	385
Opponent	30	74	43	47	20	214

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Pat White

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	132.41	65-114-5	57.0	828	8	69.0

Adam Bednarik

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	145.18	55-75-2	73.3	532	4	59.1

J.R. House

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	129.80	2-4-0	50.0	38	0	19.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Steve Slaton	10	205	1128	5.5	17	112.8
Pat White	12	131	952	7.3	7	79.3
Owen Schmitt	12	48	380	7.9	2	31.7

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Brandon Myles	12	34	536	15.8	3	44.7
Darius Reynaud	12	30	297	9.9	5	24.8
Steve Slaton	10	12	95	7.9	2	9.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Mike Lorello	12	53	29	82
Kevin McLee	12	46	32	78
Jahmile Addae	12	35	29	64

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Keilen Dykes	12	5.0	24
Mike Lorello	12	3.0	23
Johnny Dingle	12	3.0	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dee McCann	4	6	1.5	0
Mike Lorello	3	7	2.3	0
Jahmile Addae	2	44	22.0	1

Official athletic Web site: www.uoflsports.com

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Cards should deal high-scoring offense behind quarterback Brohm and explosive running back Bush

A year ago, Louisville was a popular preseason choice for No. 1. After all, the team had gone 11-1 in 2004 and faced a schedule consisting of a depleted Big East and a weak non-conference slate.

The Cards lost just two regular-season games in 2005, but they were embarrassing ones, falling 45-14 in Week Three at South Florida and blowing a 24-7, fourth-quarter lead at West Virginia in midseason. A loss to former Big East member Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl did little to silence the critics.

Now, fourth-year Coach Bobby Petrino (29-8) and his troops know better than to overlook anyone, especially not with a tougher schedule in 2006 that includes first-month matchups against Miami and Kansas State.

The good news is that the conference schedule is backloaded, with only Cincinnati and Syracuse before November and West Virginia, South Florida and Connecticut coming to Louisville.

Dominating defensive end Elvis Dumervil will be missed, but with Louisville's explosive offense, it's a loss that won't be too much of a burden.

The Cards are well-armed, with perhaps the nation's best quarterback/running back tandem now that Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush have departed for the NFL. Like Southern Cal last season, Louisville has a Heisman Trophy candidate named Bush in the backfield. Michael Bush opted to return after a junior season in which he rushed for 1,143 yards and led the nation in scoring despite playing only 10 games. A fast, punishing runner at 6-3 and 250 pounds, Bush could be the Reggie Bush of 2006. Senior Kolby Smith won't get much press or many carries, but he's a capable backup.

The Cardinals put up more points (43.4 per game) than any team but USC and Texas last year and averaged 482 yards a contest, ninth in the nation. They scored more than 60 points three times and topped 40 on eight occasions.

Brian Brohm completed 68.8 percent of his passes as a sophomore, throwing for 2,883 yards, 19 touchdowns and just five interceptions, and posted the second-best passer rating (166.7) in the nation. He's fully recovered from a torn ACL suffered in the next-to-last regular-season game.

With Brohm nursing his knee injury in the spring, Hunter Cantwell solidified his job as a capable No. 2, throwing for 321 yards and three touchdowns in the spring game. Cantwell, who started the last two games last season after Brohm got hurt, threw for 216 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions in the Gator Bowl loss to Virginia Tech.

Brohm, at 6-4 and 224 pounds, is a perfect fit for Petrino's pro-style offense. He'll need to find some new receivers to replace Montrell Jones and Joshua Tinch, which shouldn't be a problem. Sophomore Mario Urrutia figures to play a more prominent role, having averaged 21.5 yards per catch in 2005, the most by any wide receiver in the country with at least 35 receptions. He's coming off a five-catch, 143-yard performance in the spring game.

With the Cards often employing three- and four-receiver sets, Urrutia again should have reliable running mates. Harry Douglas averaged 16.9 yards per game last season, and had a great spring, but is the only other returning wide receiver with more than 10 catches. Georgia Tech transfer Patrick Carter, who sat out last season, impressed coaches in the spring by working out at wide receiver, quarterback and returning punts. Then there's Chris Vaughn, a physical, 6-4 receiver who transferred from Notre Dame and sat out 2005. Redshirt sophomore Elijah Daniel is also in the mix.

For a high-powered offense, Louisville doesn't throw to tight ends much. Junior Gary Barnidge (17 catches, 240 yards) returns as the starter there. At 6-6 and 236 pounds, he's emerged as a good blocker.

Center Eric Wood and massive guard Kurt Quarterman (6-5, 336) return from one of the nation's better offensive lines, which must find replacements at the other three positions. Senior Renardo Foster should fill the right-tackle role, while Marcel Benson, a former Junior College All-American, and 6-7 junior Breno Giacomini are in the mix at left tackle.

With Dumervil anchoring the D-line last season, the Cardinals held their own up front, but often surrendered big plays. The opposite could be true this season, with a depleted front four and more experience among the linebackers and secondary.

The defensive line, which helped the Cards rank 21st in the nation in rush defense in 2005, must replace three starters, including Dumervil and Montavious Stanley. Senior Amobi Okoye, just 19, is the veteran of the unit and figures to be among the youngest NFL draftees, regardless of which juniors come out. Senior Zach Anderson, another ex-juco, should fill one position.

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big East:
9-3	5-2

(lost to Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl, 35-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Kentucky	31-24
S.9	@TEMPLE	
S.16	MIAMI (FL)	
S.23	@KANSAS STATE	
O.6	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
O.14	Cincinnati	46-22
O.21	@SYRACUSE	41-17
N.2	West Virginia	44-46 (OT)
N.9	@RUTGERS	56-5
N.18	South Florida	14-45
N.25	@PITTSBURGH	42-20
D.2	Connecticut	30-20

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cardinals' upperclassmen still reel from an epic collapse at Miami in 2004.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/14

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Brian Brohm (6-4, 224, Jr.)
FB	47	Deriontae Taylor (5-8, 244, Sr.)
RB	19	Michael Bush (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LT	69	Marcel Benson (6-6, 318, Jr.)
LG	63	Danny Barlowe (6-5, 290, Jr.)
C	77	Eric Wood (6-4, 296, So.)
RG	76	Kurt Quarterman (6-5, 336, Sr.)
RT	79	Renardo Foster (6-7, 322, Sr.)
TE	82	Gary Barnidge (6-6, 236, Jr.)
WR	7	Mario Urrutia (6-6, 228, So.)
WR	85	Harry Douglas (5-11, 170, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	96	Zach Anderson (6-4, 268, Sr.)
DT	94	Adrian Grady (6-2, 292, So.)
DT	91	Amobi Okoye (6-1, 312, Sr.)
DE	88	Brandon Cox (6-4, 253, Jr.)
SLB	11	Malik Jackson (6-2, 231, Jr.)
MLB	10	Nate Harris (6-1, 236, Sr.)
WLB	43	Abe Brown (6-4, 230, Sr.)
CB	14	Rod Council (5-11, 189, So.)
CB	21	William Gay (5-11, 184, Sr.)
FS	35	Brandon Sharp (5-11, 195, Sr.)
SS	13	Jonathan Russell (5-10, 194, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	18	Art Carmody (5-8, 181, Jr.)
P	36	Todd Flannery (6-0, 170, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Troy Pascley**, WR, 6-2, 185 *Ohio prep could be a sleeper.*
2	**Kareem Crowell**, DL, 6-4, 310 *Brings talents from Sunshine State.*
3	**Aundre Henderson**, DL, 6-4, 285 *Home-grown prospect has promise.*
4	**Deantwan Whitehead**, DE, 6-6, 245 *Alabama athlete is a touted defender.*
5	**Zach Meagher**, TE, 6-4, 248 *Cincinnati product is a solid blocker and receiver.*

Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (42,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Bobby Petrino, 4th year (29-8)
Career record: 29-8
Assistant coaches: Greg Nord (asst. head coach/TEs/RBs), Mike Cassity (co-def. coord./safeties), Paul Petrino (off. coord./WRs), Jeff Brohm (QBs), Reggie Johnson (ILBs), Tom McMahon (OLBs, special teams), Mike Summers (off. line), Joe Whitt Jr. (CBs/recruiting coord.), Kevin Wolthausen (co-def. coord./def. line)

Michael Bush, RB

Middle linebacker Nate Harris is the team's leading returning tackler. He was second to Dumervil last season with 11.5 tackles for loss, including seven sacks. Speedy junior Preston Smith and senior Abe Brown figure to battle for weakside position, while junior Malik Jackson is the favorite for the strongside post. Brown has recorded more than 50 tackles in each of the last two seasons, despite missing three games last year. Lamar Miles, a sophomore, was projected as a backup, but after a monster spring, he could nail down a starting role in August.

The secondary was a major concern a year ago, with three new starters. It's now one of the team's strengths. Senior corner William Gay is Louisville's best cover man. It speaks volumes about Gay that he hasn't had an interception the past two years but is still regarded as one of the best in the league at his position. Rod Council was second on the team with 40 solo tackles last year as a redshirt freshman. Senior Brandon Sharp returns as a starting free safety, while Jonathan Russell, a sophomore, will take over at strong safety.

The Cardinals have the league's most reliable kicker in junior Art Carmody, a first-team all-conference choice in 2005. With the departure Montrell Jones, seniors Douglas and Sergio Spencer are the front-runners to take over kickoff-return duties.

NEXT BIG THING

PATRICK CARTER, junior wide receiver

The state of Georgia may be "Carter Country" in political terms, but not in football matters.

Speedy wideout Patrick Carter had a frustrating two years at Georgia Tech. Among other things, he suffered a bout with mono, injured his knee and was bounced around from quarterback to punt returner. He now hopes to find a happier home in Bobby Petrino's high-powered Louisville offense.

"I love the offense here," says Carter, who will be a junior wide receiver for the Cardinals this season. "I feel like it can't be stopped."

Petrino is hoping Carter proves equally dominant. During spring practice, Louisville moved Carter around the field, looking at him primarily as a receiver, but also at quarterback, defensive back and on special teams as a return man.

He played quarterback in high school and as a backup to Reggie Ball during his stint at Tech. Experts say Petrino, who is known for his innovative offensive strategies, will make good use of Carter's many talents.

"Bobby Petrino designs offenses as well as anyone in the country," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "Don't be surprised if you see Patrick Carter taking snaps under center, carrying the ball, lining up in the slot and doing a few other things. He has a lot of attributes that fit well into that system. He really looks promising."

Carter comes to Louisville with quite a pedigree. His brother, Tim, is a five-year NFL veteran as a wide receiver with the New York Giants. In addition, he has already run track at Louisville.

"That has really helped me a lot with my explosiveness," Carter says of his track experience. "Right now, I'm making up for my technique with my speed. Once I get my technique going, too, I should improve my game. That's what I am working toward."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	LOUISVILLE	OPP
SCORING	521	285
Points Per Game	43.4	23.8
FIRST DOWNS	287	226
Rushing	123	85
Passing	142	115
Penalty	22	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	2262	1368
Yards gained rushing	2542	1895
Yards lost rushing	280	527
Rushing Attempts	472	460
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.0
Average Per Game	188.5	114.0
TDs Rushing	41	16
PASSING YARDAGE	3523	2520
Att-Comp-Int	376-246-10	367-199-9
Average Per Pass	9.4	6.9
Average Per Catch	14.3	12.7
Average Per Game	293.6	210.0
TDs Passing	24	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5785	3888
Total Plays	848	827
Average Per Play	6.8	4.7
Average Per Game	482.1	324.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	38-789	77-1676
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	39-394	15-153
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	9-88	10-165
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.8	21.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.1	10.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.8	16.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-12	32-19
PENALTIES-YARDS	92-816	91-820
Average Per Game	68.0	68.3
PUNTS-YARDS	36-1399	68-2642
Average Per Punt	38.9	38.9
Net punt average	34.6	33.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:56	31:02
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/148	63/174
3rd-Down Pct.	48%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/21	10/17
4th-Down Pct.	43%	59%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-343	25-185
MISC YARDS	99	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	69	35
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-16	12-15
PAT-ATTEMPTS	63-65	31-31
ATTENDANCE	246007	225221
Games/Avg Per Game	6/41001	5/45044
Neutral Site Games	1/63780	

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Louisville	109	156	132	104	20	521
Opponent	57	67	51	88	22	285

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brian Brohm

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	166.73	301-207-5	68.8	2883	19	288.3

Hunter Cantwell

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	138.71	73-39-4	53.4	640	5	80.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Michael Bush	10	205	1143	5.6	23	114.3
George Stripling	12	79	621	7.9	7	51.8
Kolby Smith	10	107	523	4.9	6	52.3

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Joshua Tinch	12	67	855	12.8	4	71.2
Montrell Jones	12	43	574	13.3	5	47.8
Mario Urrutia	11	37	797	21.5	7	72.5

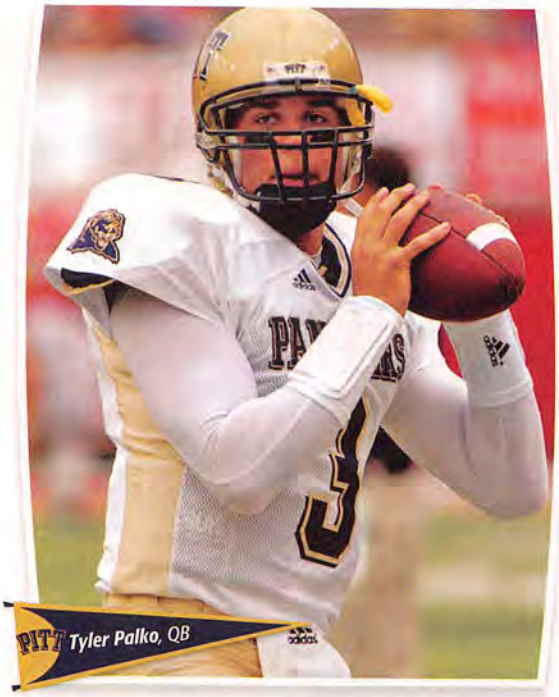
DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Brandon Johnson	12	44	28	72
Nate Harris	12	37	29	66
Elvis Dumervil	12	38	27	65

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Elvis Dumervil	12	20.0	160
Nate Harris	12	7.0	55
Montavious Stanley	11	5.5	44

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Brandon Johnson	2	25	12.5	1
Jon Russell	2	32	16.0	0
Antoine Sharp	1	0	0.0	0

PITTSBURGH PANTHERS


Tyler Palko, QB

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	Big East:
5-6	4-3

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Virginia	
S.8	@CINCINNATI	38-20
S.16	Michigan State	
S.23	Citadel	
S.30	Toledo	
O.7	@SYRACUSE	34-17
O.13	@UCF	
O.21	RUTGERS	29-37
N.4	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-17
N.11	@CONNECTICUT	24-0
N.16	West Virginia	13-45
N.25	Louisville	20-42

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

With a soft early schedule, the Panthers could be 7-0 as they face their first test.

Stadium: Heinz Field (65,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dave Wannstedt, 2nd year (5-6)
Career record: 5-6
Assistant coaches: Bob Junko (asst. head coach/def./recruiting coord.), Matt Cavanaugh (off. coord./QBs), Paul Rhoads (def. coord./secondary), Charlie Partridge (special teams coord./def. ends), Curtis Bray (LBs), Paul Dunn (off. line), Greg Gattuso (def. line), Aubrey Hill (WRs), David Walker (RBs)

BIG EAST

Highly rated recruiting class could make the difference for Wannstedt in his second season with Panthers

When Pittsburgh hosts Virginia to open the season, Coach Dave Wannstedt will have more than a few notes to compare with Al Groh.

Groh left the NFL after the 2000 season to return to his alma mater, where he endured a 5-7 campaign in 2001. The following year he put a heralded recruiting class to work immediately and a group of true freshmen helped the team to a surprising 9-5 season.

Wannstedt, who left the NFL after the 2004 season to return to his alma mater, endured a 5-6 season last year. After signing one of the nation's top recruiting classes, he'll likely put several true freshmen to work this season. And it would not be surprising if the Panthers enjoyed the same type of turnaround the Cavaliers did in 2002.

The tougher part of Pitt's schedule is at home, where it will face West Virginia, Louisville and Rutgers. Even the more high-profile non-conference opponents—Virginia and Michigan State—are rebuilding and must come to Heinz Field.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Dorin Dickerson**, WR, 6-2, 200 *Back-yard recruit could also play defense.*
2	**Nate Byham**, TE, 6-3, 215 *Emerged last season as top prospect.*
3	**Elijah Fields**, WR, 6-2, 210 *Panthers keep top back-yard talent home.*
4	**Nate Nix**, LB, 6-3, 210 *Top defender with future promise.*
5	**Ricky Gary**, DB, 5-9, 175 *Floridian overlooked by in-state powers.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/23

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Tyler Palko (6-2, 220, r-Sr.)
FB	31	Conredge Collins (5-11, 225, So.)
TB	34	LaRod Stephens-Howling (5-7, 165, So.)
LT	62	John Bachman (6-4, 260, So.)
LG	57	C.J. Davis (6-2, 290, So.)
C	68	Joe Villani (6-3, 300, r-Sr.)
RG	60	John Simonitis (6-4, 325, r-Sr.)
RT	75	Mike McGlynn (6-5, 325, r-Jr.)
TE	84	Steve Buches (6-4, 250, r-Sr.)
SE	4	Joe DelSardo (5-8, 195, Sr.)
FL	81	Derek Kinder (6-1, 200, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	54	Charles Sallet (6-0, 235, r-Sr.)
DT	47	Nick Williams (6-2, 275, r-So.)
DT	98	Vernon Botts (6-4, 260, r-Sr.)
DE	41	Chris McKillop (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
SLB	17	Clint Session (6-0, 235, Sr.)
MLB	51	H.B. Blades (6-0, 245, Sr.)
WLB	44	Brian Bennett (6-0, 235, r-Sr.)
LCB	25	Darrelle Revis (6-0, 190, Jr.)
RCB	5	Kennard Cox (6-1, 195, r-Jr.)
FS	10	Mike Phillips (5-11, 195, r-Jr.)
SS	46	Sam Bryant (6-0, 230, r-Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	16	David Abdul (5-10, 200, r-Sr.)
P	18	Adam Graessle (6-4, 225, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Quarterback Tyler Palko is coming off a junior season in which he passed for 2,392 yards and 17 touchdowns. He'll miss all-conference wide receiver Greg Lee, who left early for the NFL, and promising running back Rashad Jennings, who transferred to Liberty.

Palko sputtered at times last season adjusting to Offensive Coordinator Matt Cavanaugh's new offense, but found his rhythm late in the year and is motivated by the team's poor showing in 2005. His leading returning receiver is junior Derek Kinder (37 catches, 374 yards).

Much of Pitt's talent rests on the defensive side of the ball, with rising-star cornerback Darrelle Revis, senior safety Sam Bryant and junior safeties Mike Phillips and Jemeel Brady returning. They'll make the departures of cornerback Josh Lay and free safety Tez Morris much easier to bear. Revis picked off four passes as a sophomore and led the Big East in punt-return yards.

H.B. Blades, son of ex-NFL player Bennie Blades, is back for a senior year, as is fellow linebacker Clint Session. Linebacker Brian Bennett is expected to be recovered for preseason drills after missing spring practice recovering from a fractured ankle.

Blades is the anchor of the Pitt defense, leading the conference last season with 121 tackles. With a maturing supporting cast around him, he should boost his NFL Draft stock significantly this year.

The Panthers will have to retool their defensive line, having lost both tackles to graduation. The defensive ends, however, return in senior Charles Sallet and junior Chris McKillop.

Recruiting experts touted Pitt's incoming class as the best in the Big East and among the tops in the nation. Nate Byham was rated one of the top tight ends in the country. With the Panthers thin at the position, he could play right away. So too could tailback Kevin Collier, who should benefit from the team's lack of depth in the backfield.

Other players unlikely to wear redshirts include defensive lineman Jason Pinkston and cornerback Jovani Chappel, who enrolled in classes during the spring.

David Abdul, a starter as a true freshman in 2002, will get the first shot at placekicking after redshirting in 2004 following a car accident and serving as backup last year.

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Outcome of tough early schedule will determine if Scarlet Knights can keep momentum of '05 bowl season going

James Galdolfini, Rutgers Class of 1983, was among those in attendance last season at the Insight Bowl, and as honorary captain before the game he shot a few intimidating glares at Arizona State players.

The Scarlet Knights came up short against the Sun Devils, but by posting their first winning season since 1992 and appearing in their first bowl game since 1978, they demonstrated the type of muscle and presence that even Tony Soprano could appreciate.

Rutgers was one of college football's most unlikely stories last season and has depth and youth to build upon in 2006. Coach Greg Schiano received a seven-year contract in December, and it's not just Rutgers officials who believe his program has staying power.

It won't be easy. Rutgers must face West Virginia, Pittsburgh and South Florida on the road. The Scarlet Knights also open the year at North Carolina. Still, there's talk of contention for a conference title, which speaks volumes of how far the program has come.

Few teams possess as potent a backfield as the Knights, who employ tailback Ray Rice and fullback Brian Leonard. Rice rushed for 1,120 yards as a true freshman and Leonard bypassed the NFL Draft to return for his senior year. The future looks bright with speedy recruit Kordell Young, who reneged on a verbal commitment to Virginia when several Cavalier assistants departed.

Rutgers will begin the season with a new quarterback. Mike Teel, a sophomore, is a traditional drop-back type and the front-runner to succeed Ryan Hart. Redshirt freshman Jabu Lovelace is more of a scrambler, but has a cannon of an arm, and could push for playing time. Don't be surprised if Schiano uses Lovelace as a change-of-pace quarterback in special packages.

Either quarterback will look frequently to Clark Harris, a two-time All-Big East tight end who caught 38 passes for 584 yards and four touchdowns in 2005. Gone is all-conference guard John Glass, but starting linemen Pedro Sosa and Jeremy Zuttah anchor an otherwise experienced offensive front.

Defense is a more pressing concern for Rutgers, which gave up 190 points in its final four games last year. Replacements are needed for All-Big East performer Ryan Neill and fellow defensive end Val Barnaby, who combined for 20 sacks last season.

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	Big East:
7-5	4-3

(lost to Arizona State in the Insight Bowl, 45-40)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S.9	Illinois	30-33 (OT)
S.16	Ohio	
S.23	Howard	
S.29	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45
O.14	@NAVY	31-21
O.21	@PITTSBURGH	37-29
O.28	Connecticut	26-24
N.9	Louisville	5-56
N.18	@CINCINNATI	44-9
N.25	Syracuse	31-9
D.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	14-27

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Season opener against fellow upstart UNC could set the tone for whether the Scarlet Knights will build upon their 2005 success.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/18

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Mike Teel (6-4, 220, So.)
FB	23	Brian Leonard (6-2, 235, Sr.)
RB	27	Ray Rice (5-9, 195, So.)
OT	77	Pedro Sosa (6-5, 300, Jr.)
OG	72	Mike Fladell (6-8, 318, Jr.)
C	53	Darnell Stapleton (6-3, 305, Sr.)
OG	63	Cameron Stephenson (6-5, 305, Sr.)
OT	71	Jeremy Zuttah (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	81	Clark Harris (6-6, 255, Sr.)
WR	84	Willie Foster (5-10, 170, Sr.)
WR	4	Shawn Tucker (6-2, 200, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	90	Jamaal Westerman (6-3, 252, So.)
DT	56	Eric Foster (6-2, 260, Jr.)
DT	60	Ramel Meekins (6-0, 280, Sr.)
DE	35	William Beckford (6-1, 222, Sr.)
LB	52	Chenry Lewis (6-3, 235, So.)
LB	55	Devraun Thompson (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LB	50	Quintero Frierson (6-1, 235, Sr.)
CB	24	Joe Porter (6-0, 200, Sr.)
CB	11	Derrick Roberson (5-10, 175, Sr.)
S	43	Ron Girault (5-11, 195, Jr.)
S	36	Courtney Greene (6-1, 180, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	1	Jeremy Ito (5-11, 180, Jr.)
P	30	Joe Radigan (6-5, 220, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Rutgers Stadium (41,500)

Defensive tackle Ramel Meekins (9 sacks) is the only returning starter on the D-line.

The linebacking corps is more experienced, with senior Devraun Thompson (97 tackles) and returning starters Chenry Lewis and Quintero Frierson. So is the secondary, which features junior Ron Girault and sophomore Courtney Greene at safety. Greene was a Freshman All-American last season. Derrick Roberson, a senior, is a returning starter at one corner position. Seniors Joe Porter and Manny Collins are the top contenders for the other corner slot.

Jeremy Ito is one of the league's more reliable kickers. Willie Foster, the Big East Special Teams Player of the Year, is back for his senior season after returning 30 kickoffs for 736 yards (24.5 average) in 2005.

Head coach: Greg Schiano, 6th year (19-39)
Career record: 19-39
Assistant coaches: Chris Demarest (secondary), Kyle Flood (off. line), Phil Galiano (def. ends), Cary Godette (def. line), Robert Jackson (RBs), John McNulty (asst. off. coord./QBs/WRs), Darren Rizzi (asst. head coach/LBs/special teams), Joe Susan (recruiting coord./TEs), Craig Ver Steeg (off. coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Kenny Britt**, WR, 6-4, 205 *Big target from home-state prep program.*
2	**Ryan D'Imperio**, LB, 6-2, 230 *Solid defender who should contribute.*
3	**Mo Lange**, OL, 6-7, 351 *Massive blocker who anchors line.*
4	**Kordell Young**, RB, 5-9, 185 *Home-state product could be tested at other skill positions.*
5	**Andres Morales**, LB, 6-2, 260 *Pennsylvania all-stater is a top-notch defensive prospect.*

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲6
2004	4
2003	7
2002	9
2001	8

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Jim Leavitt, 10th year (61-39)
Career record: 61-39
Stadium: Raymond James Stadium
Capacity: 65,000
Official athletic Web site: www.gobulls.usf.edu

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	McNeese State	
S.9	Florida International	
S.16	@UCF	31-14
S.23	@KANSAS	
S.29	Rutgers	45-31
O.7	Connecticut	10-15
O.14	@NORTH CAROLINA	
O.21	@CINCINNATI	31-16
N.4	Pittsburgh	17-31
N.11	Syracuse	27-0
N.18	@LOUISVILLE	45-14
N.25	@WEST VIRGINIA	13-28

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The Bulls will face a hostile crowd and a motivated team after embarrassing the Cardinals last year in Tampa.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

OFFENSE		
QB	4	Carlton Hill (6-3, 215, So.)
RB	1	Moise Plancher (5-9, 190, Fr.)
LT	55	Thed Watson (6-5, 295, Sr.)
LG	77	Jake Griffin (6-4, 300, So.)
C	69	Nick Capogna (6-3, 255, Jr.)
RG	75	Walter Walker (6-5, 305, Jr.)
RT	78	Mark Dile (6-4, 280, So.)
TE	9	Cedric Hill (6-3, 210, So.)
WR	18	Amarri Jackson (6-5, 195, Jr.)
WR	81	S.J. Green (6-3, 220, Sr.)
WR	83	Jackie Chambers (5-11, 180, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	90	Jarriett Buie (6-4, 240, Jr.)
NT	76	Richard Clebert (6-1, 295, Jr.)
DT	46	Tavarious Robinson (6-4, 265, Sr.)
RE	91	Josh Julmiste (6-6, 265, So.)
SLB	51	Stephen Nicholas (6-3, 225, Sr.)
MLB	59	Ben Moffitt (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB	53	Pat St. Louis (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LCB	21	Trae Williams (5-10, 185, Jr.)
RCB	4	Mike Jenkins (6-0, 200, Jr.)
FS	17	Danny Verpaele (5-11, 200, So.)
SS	7	Louis Gachette (6-3, 205, Fr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	28	Mike Benzer (5-8, 185, So.)
P	31	William Criswell (5-9, 160, So.)

2005 Record: 6-6 overall, **4-3 Big East**
(lost to N.C. State in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 14-0)

South Florida continued its quick rise in 2005, just its ninth season of football. The Bulls finished 4-3 in their first season in the Big East, shocked Louisville and made the school's first bowl appearance.

Coach Jim Leavitt, the only coach the Bulls have ever had and who is signed through 2012, believes the job is one of the best in the country. In a few years, he may be right. No longer does the team operate out of a flotilla of trailers but in a sparkling, big-time football facility. And Leavitt's staff is starting to lure the type of area prep talent that previously would have accepted the first offer from Gainesville or Tallahassee.

But as the Bulls enter their 10th season of NCAA football, Leavitt must find a way to improve an offense that ranked 79th in the nation last season. The unit looked promising at times, especially in pounding Louisville 45-14, but lost 15-10 at Connecticut and failed to score against North Carolina State in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Leavitt used three quarterbacks in 2005 and did not seem enamored with any of them. Pat Julmiste and Carlton Hill will battle it out in August, with the more athletic Hill the favorite. Another of last year's quarterbacks, Courtney Denson, was moved to wide receiver.

The Bulls must replace Andre Hall, who holds most every USF rushing record. Redshirt freshman Moise Plancher and sophomore Ricky Ponton are the most promising options.

USF returns seven starters on offense and seven on defense, including the conference's best linebacking unit. Ben Moffitt, Patrick St. Louis and Stephen Nicholas combined for 264 tackles and 12.5 sacks in 2005. Other key veterans include senior offensive tackle Thed Watson and junior cornerback Mike Jenkins, both of whom joined Nicholas on the All-Big East second team.

Wide receiver Amarri Jackson enjoyed a breakout, two-touchdown game against Louisville and has all the tools to develop into a big-time playmaker in 2006.

The Bulls will have time to address their offense during a softer early-season schedule before closing out the year with games at Louisville and West Virginia.

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲8
2003	9
2002	6
2001	2

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Randy Edsall, 8th year (37-43)
Career record: 37-43
Stadium: Rentschler Field
Capacity: 40,000
Official athletic Web site: www.uconnhuskies.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Rhode Island	
S.16	Wake Forest	
S.23	@INDIANA	
S.30	Navy	
O.7	@SOUTH FLORIDA	15-10
O.14	Army	47-13
O.20	WEST VIRGINIA	13-45
O.28	@RUTGERS	24-26
N.11	Pittsburgh	0-24
N.18	@SYRACUSE	26-7
N.25	Cincinnati	17-28
D.2	@LOUISVILLE	20-30

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

This ESPN Friday night homecoming game will show if the Huskies have bounced back from 2005.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/17

OFFENSE		
QB	14	D.J. Hernandez (6-1, 205, So.)
FB	30	Deon Anderson (5-11, 249, Sr.)
TB	44	Terry Caulley (5-7, 185, Sr.)
LT	64	William Beatty (6-5, 271, So.)
LG	57	Matt Applebaum (6-3, 292, Sr.)
C	68	Keith Gray (6-2, 283, So.)
RG	61	Immanuel Hutcherson (6-1, 286, So.)
RT	79	Mike Hicks (6-7, 336, Fr.)
TE	46	Dan Murray (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	88	Brandon McLean (5-10, 166, Jr.)
WR	83	Brandon Young (5-11, 189, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	50	Cody Brown (6-3, 235, So.)
DT	53	Ray Blagman (6-3, 319, Sr.)
DT	93	Rhema Fuller (6-2, 266, Sr.)
DE	6	Dan Davis (6-1, 264, Jr.)
SLB	14	Justin DeRubertis (5-11, 216, Jr.)
MLB	43	Ryan Henegan (6-1, 241, Jr.)
WLB	48	Danny Lansanah (6-1, 248, Jr.)
CB	28	Darius Butler (5-11, 181, So.)
CB	29	Tyvon Branch (6-0, 192, Jr.)
FS	10	Marvin Taylor (6-0, 191, Jr.)
SS	35	M.J. Estep (6-1, 212, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	98	Matt Nuzie (5-11, 200, Sr.)
P	6	Chris Pavasaris (6-2, 216, Sr.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **2-5 Big East**

Much was expected of the Huskies after an 8-4 season in 2004 that saw the team emerge as a legitimate Big East contender. There was little hope of a repeat last year, what with 18 players from the two-deep preseason depth chart lost to injury during the campaign.

Coach Randy Edsall, who has overseen a smooth transition from Division I-AA to I-A and a move to the Big East in 2004, remains upbeat—as well he should. The Huskies have the talent and depth to rebound from last season's 5-6 mark. A solid recruiting class and favorable home schedule will help.

The team lost standout linebacker Taurien Sowell to graduation and running back Cornell Brockington, who declared early for the NFL Draft. But there's plenty of talent left.

Running back Terry Caulley, who split time with Brockington last fall, should benefit from the early exit and improve his effort from last year, when he rushed for 659 yards.

The Huskies have perhaps the most intriguing quarterback battle in the conference. Matt Bonislawski is back after missing four games because of a broken collarbone last year. His injury gave a two-game audition to D.J. Hernandez, who looked promising. Dennis Brown also made two starts in 2005. Then there's redshirt freshman Billy Cundiff, a heralded recruit Edsall calls the best pure passer on the team.

Dan Murray returns for his fourth season as the starting tight end, where he caught 23 passes and improved his blocking en route to All-Big East second-team honors in 2005.

Connecticut had one of the conference's better defenses last season. Punishing linebacker Danny Lansanah, who led the team with 79 tackles, returns, as does defensive tackle Rhema Fuller, a second-team all-conference selection. Cornerback Darius Butler, who intercepted a team-high four passes, is emerging as a star.

The Huskies' most promising newcomer is cornerback James Nixon, brother of UConn wide receiver Brandon McLean. Nixon chose UConn over Penn State, Nebraska and Tennessee and should see time as a true freshman.

CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **2-5 Big East**

It's not that Coach Mark Dantonio doesn't have some talent on his Cincinnati roster. It's just when you coach at a basketball school in an area overshadowed by Ohio State—to say nothing of pro sports franchises—it's hard to establish a vast following.

The Bearcats had by far the lowest average attendance (22,423) in the Big East last season. Nippert Stadium doesn't figure to be any more crowded this season, barring an unlikely turnaround against a brutal schedule.

Cincinnati faces seven opponents that appeared in bowl games last season and four teams that finished ranked among the top 20, including road games against non-conference foes Ohio State and Virginia Tech.

Whether the Bearcats are competitive depends in part on the development of redshirt-sophomore quarterback Dustin Grutza, who was fourth in the Big East in total offense last season (165 yards per game) but was inconsistent, throwing 11 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions.

Senior Nick Davila, a juco transfer who threw four touchdowns in garbage time last year, is ready should Grutza falter. Redshirt freshman Chris Carey, who helped Cincinnati's Elder High to back-to-back state titles, is also in the mix.

Running back Bradley Glatthaar will try to improve on a season that saw him lead the team with 620 yards rushing and seven touchdowns. Also back is tight end Brent Celek, the Bearcats' leading returning receiver (32 catches).

Cincinnati returns the top six tacklers from a defense that ranked among the youngest in the country last fall. The group includes punishing safety Haruki Nakamura, who led the team in tackles (76), and linebacker Corey Smith, who is coming off of shoulder surgery.

The secondary returns all four starters, including cornerback Mike Mickens, who started 10 games last year and was named second-team All-Big East.

PRESEASON RANK:

#7

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	▲7
2003	5
2002	■▲7
2001	▲7

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Mark Dantonio, 3rd year (11-12)
Career record: 11-12
Stadium: Nippert Stadium
Capacity: 35,000
Official athletic Web site: www.ucbearcats.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Eastern Kentucky	
S.8	Pittsburgh	20-38
S.16	@OHIO STATE	
S.23	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S.30	Miami (OH)	16-44
O.7	Akron	
O.14	@LOUISVILLE	22-46
O.21	South Florida	16-31
O.28	Syracuse	22-16
N.11	@WEST VIRGINIA	0-38
N.18	Rutgers	9-44
N.25	@CONNECTICUT	28-17

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

If nothing else, the Bearcats can see where they stand against their formidable in-state foe, part of a brutal first month of the season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/13

OFFENSE		
QB	4	Dustin Grutza (6-2, 202, So.)
FB	86	Doug Jones (6-4, 282, Jr.)
TB	11	Bradley Glatthaar (5-11, 225, Jr.)
LT	73	Mario Duenas (6-3, 280, Jr.)
LG	78	Frank Straub (6-6, 210, Sr.)
C	57	Jeff Reinstatler (6-2, 287, Sr.)
RG	74	Ken Rodriguez (6-3, 305, Jr.)
RT	72	Digger Bujnoch (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	85	Brent Celek (6-4, 255, Sr.)
WR	84	Bill Poland (6-3, 205, Sr.)
WR	14	Earnest Jackson (6-3, 215, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	56	Trevor Anderson (6-2, 258, So.)
DT	54	Jon Newton (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	95	Terrill Byrd (6-1, 285, So.)
DE	12	Anthony Hoke (6-1, 245, Jr.)
LB	52	Kevin McCullough (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LB	42	Corey Smith (6-1, 215, So.)
LB	37	Anthony Williams (6-1, 200, Jr.)
CB	21	Mike Mickens (6-0, 165, So.)
CB	5	Antoine Horton (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	13	Haruki Nakamura (5-10, 185, Jr.)
SS	49	Dominic Ross (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	15	Kevin Lovell (5-10, 155, Sr.)
P	47	Kevin Huber (6-1, 205, So.)

SYRACUSE, N.Y.

SYRACUSE ORANGE

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, **0-7 Big East**

Syracuse should be better in 2006, if only because things can't get much worse.

The Orange posted a 1-10 record in 2005, the first 10-loss showing in school history, and ended the year on a nine-game losing streak. The team ranked last in the Big East in total offense and second to last in total defense. Tailback Damien Rhodes is gone and the quarterback situation remains unsettled.

Still, Coach Greg Robinson remains optimistic. Help is on the way in the form of one of the conference's better recruiting classes. That's good news for 2007 and beyond. This season, however, could be another learning experience.

The backfield is wide-open. Tailback Delone Carter rushed for 2,788 yards and 49 touchdowns and was named Mr. Football in Ohio last season. He'll compete immediately for carries with Kareem Jones, who was Syracuse's second-leading rusher last year with 108 yards.

Perry Patterson and junior Joe Fields, who shared the quarterback duties in 2005, will again battle for the job. Patterson, a fifth-year senior, is the front-runner after throwing for 1,504 yards in 2005. Andrew Robinson, who threw for 2,500 yards last season as a high school senior in Maryland, will compete for backup work.

Wide receiver Rice Moss thrived during the second half of his sophomore campaign and led the Orange with 359 yards on 26 receptions. Freshman Andrey Baskin, ranked as the sixth-best prep wideout in the country last season by one recruiting service, could make an impact.

On defense, the Orange return the two leading tacklers from a defense that ranked 57th in the nation. Linebacker Kelvin Smith (84 tackles) and strong safety Dowayne Davis (78) are solid building blocks.

Like most of the conference, Syracuse lost a pair of starting defensive ends (James Wyche and Ryan LaCasse). So thin is the position that linebackers Jameel McClain and Jamar Atkinson were moved to the spot during the spring and could remain there.

The Orange punted often last season and it was one of the team's few bright spots.

Brendan Carney, now a senior, is the reigning All-Big East punter.

PRESEASON RANK:

#8

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	■▲6
2003	6
2002	4
2001	▲10

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Greg Robinson, 2nd year (1-10)
Career record: 1-10
Stadium: Carrier Dome
Capacity: 49,262
Official athletic Web site: www.suathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@WAKE FOREST	
S.9	Iowa	
S.16	@ILLINOIS	
S.23	Miami (OH)	
S.30	Wyoming	
O.7	PITTSBURGH	17-34
O.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	7-15
O.21	Louisville	17-41
O.28	@CINCINNATI	16-22
N.11	@SOUTH FLORIDA	0-27
N.18	Connecticut	7-26
N.25	@RUTGERS	9-31

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The day before this first Big East game might be the last time Syracuse is undefeated in the conference.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/24

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Perry Patterson (6-4, 242, Sr.)
FB	48	Stephen McDonald (6-0, 240, Sr.)
TB	21	Kareem Jones (5-11, 221, So.)
OT	64	Corey Chavers (6-5, 295, So.)
OG	59	Carroll Madison (6-2, 316, Jr.)
C	60	Justin Outten (6-1, 274, Sr.)
OG	75	Ryan Durand (6-5, 312, So.)
OT	78	Eugene Newsome (6-7, 322, Jr.)
TE	84	Brandon Darlington (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	81	Tim Lane (6-2, 206, Sr.)
WR	12	Rice Moss (6-2, 201, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	99	Cornelius Campbell (6-4, 290, Jr.)
NT	56	Chris Thorner (6-4, 299, Sr.)
DT	51	Tony Jenkins (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RE	55	Lee Williams (6-3, 262, Jr.)
SLB	30	Vincenzo Giruzzi (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	8	Kelvin Smith (6-2, 233, Sr.)
WLB	19	Luke Cain (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LCB	28	Tanard Jackson (6-1, 193, Sr.)
RCB	27	Nick Chesnut (5-11, 182, So.)
FS	18	Reggie McCoy (6-0, 197, Jr.)
SS	26	Dowayne Davis (6-0, 200, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	6	John Barker (5-8, 148, So.)
P	47	Brendan Carney (6-5, 205, Sr.)

BIG TEN

Predicted order of finish:

1. Ohio State — p. 46 STOCK: UP
2. Michigan — p. 48 STOCK: UP
3. Penn State — p. 50 STOCK: UP
4. Iowa — p. 52 STOCK: UP
5. Wisconsin — p. 54 STOCK: STEADY
6. Michigan State — p. 55 STOCK: STEADY
7. Northwestern — p. 56 STOCK: STEADY
8. Minnesota — p. 57 STOCK: DOWN
9. Purdue — p. 58 STOCK: DOWN
10. Indiana — p. 59 STOCK: STEADY
11. Illinois — p. 59 STOCK: STEADY

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Ted Ginn,** WR, Ohio State	*Most elusive RB*	**Javon Ringer,** Michigan State	*Top NFL prospect*	**Joe Thomas,** OT, Wisconsin
Best hands	**Dorien Bryant,** WR, Purdue	*Best instincts*	**Paul Posluszny,** LB, Penn State	*Top impact freshman*	**Nehemiah Warrick,** SS, Michigan State
Best passing QB	**Drew Stanton,** Michigan State	*Best athlete*	**Steve Breaston,** WR/KR, Michigan	*Hardest hitter*	**LaMarr Woodley,** LB, Michigan
Best running QB	**Troy Smith,** Ohio State	*Best under pressure*	**Troy Smith,** QB, Ohio State	*Biggest underachiever*	**Kyle Ingraham,** WR, Purdue

Tressel could have biggest impact in league of heavy-hitting coaches

By **JACK EBLING** *Street & Smith's correspondent*

Most of the big names in Big Ten football are back. And they don't wear helmets.

Penn State's Joe Paterno, Ohio State's Jim Tressel, Michigan State's John L. Smith, Minnesota's Glen Mason, Purdue's Joe Tiller, Michigan's Lloyd Carr and Northwestern's Randy Walker are seven of the top-26 active college coaches in career wins.

Barry Alvarez was in there, too, until his retirement from coaching after last season. But as Wisconsin's full-time director of athletics, his coaching victories aren't transferable to handpicked successor Bret Bielema.

Bielema was the defensive coordinator when Barry's Badgers beat Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, one of three Big Ten triumphs in the first three days of 2006.

The biggest boasts in January came when the Buckeyes blasted Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl and the Nittany Lions outlasted Florida State in the Orange Bowl, the league's third 2-0 showing in BCS games.

Led by Ohio State's 4-0 mark, the Big Ten leads all conferences with eight BCS wins in 13 appearances since the current system began in January 1999.

Not bad for a "basketball league."

To get two more BCS bids and a berth in the 2007 national title game, the Big Ten might need Tressel's troops to be as good as they were four years ago when the Buckeyes stunned Miami in two overtimes.

Michigan has more than enough talent and experience to beat any team on its schedule. But after a rare five-loss effort, the Wolverines will need to play better to protect their leads and reputation.

Defending conference champ Penn State was third in both final polls last season, one spot ahead of Ohio State. Paterno can still call on linebacker Paul Posluszny, the reigning Bednarik and Butkus Award winner, for leadership.

Iowa, a disappointment last season, and Wisconsin, a pleasant surprise, should form the rest of the first division. The Hawkeyes could be terrific on offense. The Badgers might have the league's top defense.

With a prolific attack, Michigan State can shock a few teams. But the defense and special teams must improve for the Spartans to pass Northwestern and Minnesota, bowl teams they lost to by a total of 58 points last fall.

The Wildcats and Golden Gophers should have enough to hold off Purdue. Indiana and Illinois are at least a year away, though both programs have building permits.

Though only six first-team All-Big Ten picks return and 41 players were drafted into the NFL, it's nice to know that coaches who can develop All-Americans are still on campus.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Troy Smith, Sr., Ohio State	DL	Ken Iwebema, Jr., Iowa
WR	James Hardy, So., Indiana	DL	Quinn Pitcock, Sr., Ohio State
WR	Ted Ginn, Jr., Ohio State	DL	Jay Alford, Sr., Penn State
RB	Tyrell Sutton, So., Northwestern	LB	LaMarr Woodley, Sr., Michigan
RB	Albert Young, Jr., Iowa	LB	Paul Posluszny, Sr., Penn State
TE	Matt Spaeth, Sr., Minnesota	LB	Mark Zalewski, Sr., Wisconsin
OL	Joe Thomas, Sr., Wisconsin	LB	David Harris, Sr., Michigan
OL	Levi Brown, Sr., Penn State	DB	Leon Hall, Sr., Michigan
OL	Jake Long, Jr., Michigan	DB	Joe Stellmacher, Sr., Wisconsin
OL	Jordan Grimes, Jr., Purdue	DB	Marquice Cole, Sr., Northwestern
OL	Mike Elgin, Sr., Iowa	DB	Roderick Rogers, Sr., Wisconsin
PK	Kyle Schlicher, Sr., Iowa	P	Ken DeBauche, Jr., Wisconsin

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Will any team stop Ohio State's Troy Smith and Ted Ginn?** The Buckeyes might if they don't take full advantage of their two best players. Otherwise, no team on the schedule should hold them to less than 24 points.
2. **Can Michigan finish with fewer than three defeats?** The talent is there to do better than that after a 7-5 pratfall. But three tough road challenges could mean three or more losses for the 12th time in 14 years.
3. **Is Penn State poised to repeat as Big Ten champ?** Linebacking stud Paul Posluszny and last season's explosive freshmen should keep the Nittany Lions in the hunt. But they won't rule without quarterback Michael Robinson.
4. **Could Iowa or Wisconsin be a surprise champion?** The Hawkeyes have a great combination on offense in Drew Tate and Albert Young. Wisconsin might have the league's best defense. But they'll both have to settle for a first-division finish.
5. **Which second-division teams will be better this season?** Michigan State could have the Big Ten's second-best offense. Indiana and Illinois should be much improved, too, though it might not show in the standings.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **PENN STATE**: Same ol' Paterno? Lions land second straight big haul.
2. **OHIO STATE**: Bucks recruit speed at running back and linebacker.
3. **MICHIGAN**: Winged helmets still an attraction after down year.
4. **MICHIGAN STATE**: JC transfers should start on defense immediately.
5. **ILLINOIS**: Zook's staff starting to rake in its share of in-state recruits.
6. **IOWA**: Ferentz doesn't need five-star recruits to win big.
7. **WISCONSIN**: Bielema will do a terrific job when kids get to know him.
8. **PURDUE**: Mid-year JC transfers will fill holes right away.
9. **MINNESOTA**: The Gophers get better results than recruiting-class rankings.
10. **NORTHWESTERN**: Good job of finding sleepers who'll keep foes awake.
11. **INDIANA**: Terry Hoeppner's program is taking the right baby steps.

Why Kelso Sturgeon Laughs His Way To The Bank...

And Why He GUARANTEES You Will Do The Same!

Who Is Kelso Sturgeon...

- *Author: The Complete Guide To Sports Betting" (Harper & Row)*
- *Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in College & Pro Football Newsweekly, Sportsform.*
- *Seen on TV's Pro Line (USA Cable Network)*
- *Profiled in: Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.*
- *Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"*
- *Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.*

BIG GAME WINNERS FROM '05

S 1	Conn (-18) Buffalo	38-0	W	10
	V'bilt (+8) Wake For	24-20	W	3
	Oreg (-7½) Houston	38-24	W	2
S17	***College Blowout Game of Year***			
	Missouri (-19½) Troy	52-21	W	25
S24	***College Game of Year***			
	Ariz St (-6½) Oreg St	42-24	W	100
O 2	***NFL Parlay of Year***			
	Colts (-7) Titans	31-10	W	10
	Raiders (-3½) Cowboys	19-13	W	10
	Parlay of Colts & Raiders		W	10
O 9	***NFL Game of the Year***			
	Browns (-3) Bears	20-10	W	50
O13	***Thursday Night Game of Month***			
	Clemson (+4) NC State	31-10	W	15
O23	***College Upset Game of Month***			
	Auburn (+6) LSU	17-20	W	25
O30	***NFL Side and Total Parlay of Month***			
	Panthers (-7) Vikings	38-14	W	10
	Over 46½		W	3
	Parlay of side & total		W	2

When I read that Dow Jones or Standard & Poors earned 16% and brag about it, I have to laugh. I do that in one weekend. Based on hypothetical $100 bets, if my football picks go 6 out of ten, I collect $600. I pay out $440. I keep $160 profit on an investment of $1,000. That's my 16% profit. Next week – with more bucks to bet – I make even more. By the end of the season I have made 100% - 200% - or more. In fact, members of my Chairman's Club who followed my betting guidelines over the last four seasons have pocketed over $400,000 in net cash earnings. Hundreds of my small-to-moderate players have seen their football earnings rise proportionately. So if you want to multiply your money I can give you the rate of climb you want. Football is my turf. As a former scout in the SEC working under the guidance of 'Bama's legendary coach Bear Bryant and Kansas City's Chiefs', Hank Stram, I learned what makes a winning program – and my early training has never stopped paying off. Now I'm inviting YOU to cash in on it!

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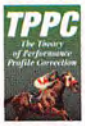

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OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

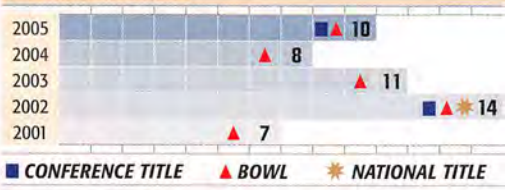
OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
10-2	7-1

(beat Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl, 34-20)

Stadium: Ohio Stadium (101,568)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Jim Tressel, 6th year (50-13)
Career record: 50-13 (Division I-A)
Assistant coaches: Jim Bollman (off. coord./off. line), Joe Daniels (passing game coord./QBs), Darrell Hazell (asst. head coach/WRs), John Peterson (recruiting coord./TEs), Dick Tressel (RBs), Jim Heacock (co-def. coord./def. line), Luke Fickell (co-def. coord./LBs), Tim Beckman (def. backs), Paul Haynes (def. backs)

Led by efficient, poised quarterback Troy Smith, offense could carry Tressel to second NCAA championship

Jim Tressel isn't a god in Columbus. He's much more than that in the eyes of most Buckeyes. He's the second coming of Woody Hayes, minus the bombast.

After five seasons on the banks of the Olentangy, Tressel has proven that a head coach can win in a sweater vest, not just a white, short-sleeved shirt. He has beaten Michigan four times and won a national title, to list his accomplishments in order of importance.

After winning 135 games and four Division I-A crowns in 15 years at Youngstown State, Tressel has been even better at Ohio State, averaging 10 wins a season and reaching 50 victories faster than some Buckeyes can spell "W-o-l-v-e-r-i-n-e-s."

Last year's team staged a furious rally in Ann Arbor and shared the league championship at 7-1. After dominating Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl, Ohio State finished 10-2 and was fourth in the polls, one spot behind conference co-champ Penn State.

Talk of a No. 1 ranking this season is tempered by the loss of five first-round draft picks, second only to Miami's six in 2004. Overall, the Buckeyes had nine players selected, behind only Southern California's 11.

Still, Ohio State's offense should be as good as any in the country. Eight starters return, including senior quarterback Troy Smith, junior flanker and kick returner Ted Ginn, junior tailback Antonio Pittman and the right side of a strong line.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Chris Wells**, RB, 6-1, 225 *Top RB prospect could play early.*
2	**Connor Smith**, OL, 6-5, 295 *Top run blocker fits OSU offense to a tee.*
3	**Robert Rose**, DE, 6-5, 260 *Another top prospect from Cleveland Glenville.*
4	**Ross Homan**, LB, 6-1, 237 *Is he the next A.J. Hawk for Buckeyes?*
5	**Larry Grant**, LB, 6-3, 225 *Juco Player of the Year could help with depleted LB positions.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Northern Illinois	
S.9	@TEXAS	22-25
S.16	Cincinnati	
S.23	Penn State	10-17
S.30	@IOWA	31-6
O.7	Bowling Green	
O.14	@MICHIGAN STATE	35-24
O.21	Indiana	41-10
O.28	Minnesota	45-31
N.4	@ILLINOIS	40-2
N.11	@NORTHWESTERN	48-7
N.18	Michigan	25-21

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Buckeyes want revenge after last year's result. Title talk could be quickly squashed with an early-season loss.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/17

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Troy Smith (6-1, 215, Sr.)
FB	89	Stan White (6-3, 242, Sr.)
TB	25	Antonio Pittman (5-11, 195, Jr.)
LT	75	Alex Boone (6-8, 315, So.)
LG	71	Steve Rehring (6-8, 329, r-So.)
C	50	Doug Datish (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RG	72	T.J. Downing (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RT	74	Kirk Barton (6-7, 325, Jr.)
TE	88	Rory Nicol (6-5, 260, So.)
FL	7	Ted Ginn (6-0, 175, Jr.)
SE	11	Anthony Gonzalez (6-0, 195, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	87	Lawrence Wilson (6-6, 225, So.)
DT	97	David Patterson (6-3, 285, Sr.)
DT	90	Quinn Pitcock (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DE	99	Jay Richardson (6-6, 276, Sr.)
SLB	33	James Laurinaitis (6-3, 231, So.)
MLB	52	John Kerr (6-1, 246, Sr.)
WLB	1	Marcus Freeman (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LCB	2	Malcolm Jenkins (6-1, 180, So.)
RCB	14	Antonio Smith (5-9, 195, Sr.)
FS	35	Nick Patterson (6-2, 210, So.)
SS	3	Jamario O'Neal (6-0, 180, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	89	Ryan Pretorius (5-10, 190, So.)
P	15	A.J. Trapasso (6-1, 220, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

That promise was reflected when 63,649 ticketed fans turned out for the Scarlet-and-Gray Game, 6,000 more than for any other spring fling ever. Smith played one series and led the Scarlet on an 80-yard march, completing all four of his throws and picking up where he left off last season.

Smith started slowly in 2005, sitting out the Miami (Ohio) game with a suspension for accepting gifts and splitting time with Justin Zwick in a loss to Texas. When he took over against San Diego State, Big Ten football wasn't the same.

The Big Ten leader in passing efficiency hit 62.9 percent of his throws for 2,282 yards and 16 touchdowns, with four interceptions. He became the first quarterback in Buckeyes history to pass for more than 2,000 yards and rush for more than 500.

Smith's 337 yards and two scores against Michigan and 408 yards against the Irish showed his poise under pressure and big-game brilliance. If that trend continues, Ohio State could have its sixth Heisman Trophy winner and seventh stiff-arming statue (1970s RB Archie Griffin won two).

His boyhood pal, Ginn, might take some of Smith's votes if he plays the way he did in the Fiesta Bowl. Ginn caught eight passes for 67 yards with a touchdown and rushed twice for 73 yards and a score. But he has been one of the most electrifying players in the country since his coming-out party at Michigan State in 2004.

Ginn's sophomore year included 51 catches for a 15.7-yard average and a league-best 29.6-yard clip on kickoff returns. He already holds the school record with five TDs on punt returns. And he could threaten David Boston's season mark of 85 grabs this year.

His running mate, split end Santonio Holmes, left school early and went 25th in the first round of the NFL Draft to Pittsburgh, where he should replace Antwaan Randle El. Holmes' 53 receptions for 977 yards and 11 TDs won't be easy to replace. But junior Anthony Gonzalez, who had the Big Ten's catch of the year against the Wolverines, could double his 28 grabs of last season.

The running game should be excellent again, led by Pittman, who quietly became one of the best backs in college football last year. He outplayed

Minnesota All-American Laurence Maroney in a 186-yard performance, broke a tackle on the game-winning smash against Michigan and had a 60-yard TD sprint against Notre Dame.

Pittman finished with 1,331 rushing yards and a 5.5-yard average. All seven of his scores came in the final six games. That's where underrated fullback Stan White, a graduate student and potential Rhodes Scholar, comes in handy as a terrific lead blocker.

There are other options on the ground. Smith had 11 rushing TDs in 11 games. And mid-year enrollee Chris Wells, the nation's top rushing prospect, could be the perfect complement to Pittman.

Ohio State lost a key performer when center Nick Mangold went 29th in Round One to the New York Jets, who spent two first-rounders on offensive linemen. Guard Robbie Sims was picked by Seattle at the end of the fourth round.

Junior right tackle Kirk Barton (6-7, 325 pounds) could be a major awards candidate before he leaves campus. He's a cinch pro pick when he's finished. And fifth-year right guard T.J. Downing could finish with a flourish.

Versatile senior Doug Datish can start almost anywhere. He was a first-string guard in 2004 and a 12-game starter at left tackle last year. He would have worked at center in the spring but rehabbed a surgically repaired shoulder.

If redshirt freshman Jim Cordle is OK at center, look for Datish to move back to guard. That puts sophomore Alex Boone (6-8, 315) at left tackle, with sophomore Steve Rehring (6-8, 329) ready to help at guard or tackle. Either way, the Buckeyes will have more size up front than most Big Ten basketball teams.

Ohio State won with defense last season, leading the league with yields of just 15.2 points and 281.3 yards per game. The Buckeyes allowed an average of just 73.4 yards per game on the ground, the fewest in the nation, and were also No. 1 in the league with 44 sacks.

Six players from that unit were drafted, including three first-round picks. Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Lombardi Award-winning linebacker A.J. Hawk went No. 5 to Green Bay. Strong safety Donte Whitner was the No. 8 selection by Buffalo. And linebacker Bobby Carpenter was the No. 18 pick by Dallas.

Cornerback Ashton Youboty joined Whitner with the Bills as a third-round pick. Linebacker Anthony Schlegel was a third-round pick of the Jets. And free safety Nate Salley was a fourth-round selection by Carolina. Also gone are end Mike Kudla, tackle Marcus Green and cornerback Tyler Everett.

The big name on defense this year belongs to the biggest player, senior defensive tackle Quinn Pitcock. Hawk, Schlegel and Carpenter should thank him for part of their success. Senior tackle David Patterson is the only other returning starter on that side of the ball.

Tressel thinks he has seven candidates for the three linebacker spots, led by senior John Kerr, who starred four years ago as an Indiana freshman. Kerr should start in the middle, flanked by sophomore James Laurinaitis at the strongside spot and junior Marcus Freeman at weakside 'backer.

Sophomore Malcolm Jenkins and senior Antonio Smith are the probable starters at cornerback, while Brandon Mitchell, Nick Patterson and Jamario O'Neal are the top candidates at safety.

Sophomore A.J. Trapasso will handle the punting again, while sophomore Ryan Pretorius or redshirt freshman Aaron Pettrey will try to replace standout placekicker Josh Huston. They should practice their extra points.

NEXT BIG THING

LARRY GRANT, junior linebacker

Linebacker Larry Grant was a late addition to Ohio State's recruiting class this year, but it couldn't have come at a better time for the Buckeyes.

With last year's stud trio of Bobby Carpenter, A.J. Hawk and Anthony Schlegel now off to shine on Sundays in the NFL, OSU must rebuild its linebacking unit. Several players will battle it out for starting spots, including Grant, who was the 2005 Junior College National Player of the Year.

The 6-3, 225-pound Grant starred at City College of San Francisco, where he recorded 90 tackles, six sacks, four forced fumbles and six blocked punts last season. He originally signed with Florida, but was informed in January by Gator officials that he didn't have a math credit in order to qualify for the SEC. Ohio State jumped at the opportunity to sign Grant, who qualified under Big Ten rules.

During the Buckeyes' spring practice, Grant acknowledges that there's a big difference in competition between Division I and juco teams.

"The game is a lot faster," Grant says. "After making the transfer from junior college to Ohio State, the game is more intense and there is more thinking involved."

Although Grant played all three linebacker positions at CCSF, he's currently listed on Ohio State's depth chart at the strongside spot. But his versatility will serve him well should he be needed in the middle or on the weakside in certain game situations.

"I'm working on my technique, and slowly learning and molding myself into the defense every day," Grant says. "I have to form a chemistry with the defense. I felt like an outsider, but every day I feel more like a part of the family."

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OHIO STATE	OPP
SCORING	392	183
Points Per Game	32.7	15.2
FIRST DOWNS	256	188
Rushing	127	60
Passing	124	110
Penalty	5	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	2360	881
Yards gained rushing	2575	1305
Yards lost rushing	215	424
Rushing Attempts	506	375
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.3
Average Per Game	196.7	73.4
TDs Rushing	23	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2708	2495
Att-Comp-Int	302-196-5	405-246-6
Average Per Pass	9.0	6.2
Average Per Catch	13.8	10.1
Average Per Game	225.7	207.9
TDs Passing	18	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	5068	3376
Total Plays	808	780
Average Per Play	6.3	4.3
Average Per Game	422.3	281.3
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	36-841	25-485
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	38-424	12-63
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	6-101	5-109
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4	19.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.2	5.2
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.8	21.8
FUMBLES-LOST	30-16	15-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	65-578	59-425
Average Per Game	48.2	35.4
PUNTS-YARDS	43-1738	84-3356
Average Per Punt	40.4	40.0
Net punt average	37.6	33.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:00	28:00
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/156	54/175
3rd-Down Pct	49%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/6	6/15
4th-Down Pct	50%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-291	18-110
MISC YARDS	0	110
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	47	21
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	22-28	11-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	44-45	18-20
ATTENDANCE	735120	329121
Games/Avg Per Game	7/105017	4/82280
Neutral Site Games		1/76196

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ohio State	88	111	98	95	392
Opponents	50	41	49	43	183

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Troy Smith

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	162.65	237-149-4	62.9	2282	16	207.5

Justin Zwick

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	126.65	58-42-1	72.4	359	1	51.3

Todd Boeckman

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	198.97	7-5-0	71.4	67	1	16.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Antonio Pittman	12	243	1331	5.5	7	110.9
Troy Smith	11	136	611	4.5	11	55.5
Maurice Wells	8	61	199	3.3	1	24.9

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Santonio Holmes	12	53	977	18.4	11	81.4
Ted Ginn	12	51	803	15.7	4	66.9
A. Gonzalez	12	28	373	13.5	3	31.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
A.J. Hawk	12	69	52	121
Anthony Schlegel	12	41	41	82
Donte Whitner	12	55	18	73

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
A.J. Hawk	12	9.5	72
Mike Kudla	12	9.5	71
Bobby Carpenter	11	8.0	65

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Donte Whitner	2	26	13.0	1
Nate Salley	1	0	0.0	0
Brandon Mitchell	1	57	57.0	1

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
7-5	5-3

(lost to Nebraska in the Alamo Bowl, 32-28)

Stadium: Michigan Stadium (107,501)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Lloyd Carr, 12th year (102-34)
Career record: 102-34
Assistant coaches: Erik Campbell (asst. head coach/WRs), Mike DeBord (off. coord./TEs), Ron English (def. coord./safeties), Fred Jackson (assoc. head coach/RBs), Ron Lee (CBs), Scot Loeffler (QBs), Andy Moeller (off. line), Steve Stripling (def. line), Steve Szabo (LBs)

BIG TEN

Wolverines looking to make 'Big House' feel like home again

Success depends upon expectations. For the winningest program in college football history, one with 31 straight postseason appearances and the longest active streak in the nation, a 7-5 record and a third straight bowl loss is as close to abject failure as it gets.

The Wolverines have represented the gold standard—or at least the maize one—with 11 national championships and a record 42 Big Ten titles. So when a team that starts the season ranked No. 4 in both polls fails to finish in the Top 25 for the first time in 21 years, how does sizzle turn to fizzle?

Coach Lloyd Carr lived with that question all winter and spring. His first 10 Michigan teams were a combined 58-6 in "The Big House." His last squad squandered a home game against Notre Dame, then blew second-half leads over Minnesota and Ohio State in Ann Arbor.

It wasn't just those games that got people thinking. Michigan lost late leads and was stung by unranked Wisconsin in Madison and by Nebraska in a wild Alamo Bowl, its fourth post-Christmas setback in five years.

Yes, there were glorious moments. But Carr can consider himself fortunate there, too. The three marquee wins in 2005 came on an overtime field goal at Michigan State, a last-second touchdown against Penn State and an overtime TD at Iowa. So, if it's true that the Wolverines could have been 12-0, they also could have gone 4-7.

The good news in Schembechler Hall? The last time Michigan won fewer than eight games—a 6-6 injury epidemic in 1984—it bounced back with a vengeance the following season, went 10-1-1, allowed just 98 points and finished No. 2 in the nation after a win over Nebraska.

The bad news? As steady as Carr's tenure has been—and his first decade included five conference crowns—his teams have lost three games or more in seven of the past eight years, including the last six. Ohio State has fired coaches for less.

No one is saying that Carr will leave one day before he chooses to do so, but it's time for the Wolverines to snarl for four months, not just when they feel like it.

Expect that to happen in 2006. Despite a schedule with traps and trips to South Bend, State College and Columbus, Michigan has the talent to beat any opponent. And what's new about that? Again, expectations can fuel frustrations when they don't foreshadow glory.

Maybe the hype was too great last season. The Wolverines had only three players drafted, none before the 109th selection. Underachieving defensive tackle Gabe Watson went to Arizona in Round Four, two picks before wide receiver Jason Avant was grabbed by Philadelphia. Tight end Tim Massaquoi went to Tampa Bay late in the seventh.

Yet Avant, Watson and undrafted offensive tackle Adam Stenavich were first-team all-conference choices. Massaquoi, offensive linemen Matt Lentz and Leo Henige and senior cornerback Leon Hall were second-team picks, giving Michigan seven honorees—two more than a Wisconsin team that won 10 games.

This year's all-star candidates start with a pair of seasoned juniors in quarterback Chad Henne and running back Mike Hart. They should have plenty of help on the flanks and up front. The defense returns eight starters from a unit that preferred 55-minute games. And at least two wins should come from the special teams.

Henne has started all 24 games the past two

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Brandon Graham**, LB, 6-2, 240 *Top in-state prospect stayed home.*
2	**Carlos Brown**, RB, 6-0, 206 *How did he get out of Georgia?*
3	**Justin Boren**, OL, 6-4, 308 *Follows father to Wolverines.*
4	**Jonas Mouton**, LB, 6-2, 212 *Another touted California prospect.*
5	**Greg Banks**, DL, 6-6, 245 *Has potential to see a lot of early action.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Vanderbilt	
S.9	Central Michigan	
S.16	@NOTRE DAME	10-17
S.23	Wisconsin	20-23
S.30	@MINNESOTA	20-23
O.7	Michigan State	34-31 (OT)
O.14	@PENN STATE	27-25
O.21	Iowa	23-20 (OT)
O.28	Northwestern	33-17
N.4	Ball State	
N.11	@INDIANA	41-14
N.18	@OHIO STATE	21-25

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Sure, the season finale against Ohio State is always big, but Michigan must win a tough game here in South Bend to be considered national contenders.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/17

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Chad Henne (6-2, 223, Jr.)
FB	40	Obi Oluigbo (6-0, 230, Sr.)
TB	20	Mike Hart (5-9, 198, Jr.)
LT	77	Jake Long (6-7, 316, Jr.)
LG	57	Adam Kraus (6-6, 295, Sr.)
C	54	Mark Bihl (6-5, 303, Sr.)
RG	73	Alex Mitchell (6-5, 311, So.)
RT	72	Rueben Riley (6-4, 303, Sr.)
TE	89	Tyler Ecker (6-6, 247, Sr.)
WR	86	Mario Manningham (6-0, 187, So.)
WR	15	Steve Breaston (6-1, 182, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	90	Tim Jamison (6-3, 249, So.)
NT	80	Alan Branch (6-6, 330, Jr.)
DT	67	Terry Taylor (6-0, 305, So.)
OLB	56	LaMarr Woodley (6-2, 268, Sr.)
ILB	2	David Harris (6-2, 242, Sr.)
ILB	45	Chris Graham (5-11, 225, Jr.)
OLB	37	Prescott Burgess (6-3, 246, Sr.)
CB	29	Leon Hall (5-11, 193, Sr.)
CB	5	Charles Stewart (6-1, 196, So.)
FS	21	Ryan Mundy (6-1, 202, Sr.)
SS	31	Brandent Englemon (5-11, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	38	Garrett Rivas (5-9, 217, Sr.)
P	3	Ross Ryan (6-1, 205, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

seasons and already ranks third in school history in completions, fourth in TD tosses and sixth in yardage. His stats dipped slightly in 2005, with 58.4-percent accuracy, 2,526 yards, 23 scores and eight interceptions. A reluctant runner, Henne can be a load to tackle near the goal line.

The Wolverines took a hard hit before spring drills when swift sophomore Antonio Bass, a terrific change-of-pace quarterback and a dangerous runner/receiver, was lost for the year with a knee injury in a conditioning drill. Sophomore backup Jason Forcier and incoming freshman David Cone have a lot to learn.

After battling injuries all season, Hart bulked up and got healthy. He was limited to eight games as a sophomore and saw his numbers drop from 1,455 rushing yards in 2004 to 662, from 5.2 yards per carry to 4.4 and from nine TDs to four. He won't break many 80-yarders, but he knows how to run and is much tougher than his smile suggests.

Sophomore Kevin Grady, the most heralded runner Michigan prep football has produced, should be better after dropping more weight than Hart gained. Grady debuted with 483 yards, 4.0 yards per pop and five scores. This year's surprise could be freshman Carlos Brown, a January enrollee with quick-six speed.

Are you sitting down? The Wolverines were ninth in the Big Ten in rushing last season and netted just 3.9 yards per try. They gained just 32 yards in 24 tries against the Buckeyes and couldn't kill the clock with a 21-12 lead. That shriek you just heard was Bo Schembechler threatening to strangle the first offensive aide he sees.

The new line will be anchored at left tackle by massive junior Jake Long, who has dropped 20 pounds in the right places. Long played in only the final five games, but couldn't create any daylight against Ohio State. That should change on Nov. 18.

Senior center Mark Bihl, senior center/guard Adam Kraus, senior tackle/guard Rueben Riley and sophomore guard/tackle Alex Mitchell need to improve for Michigan's skill players to reach their vast potential.

The scariest threat is senior wideout and return specialist Steve Breaston, one of the best game-breakers Carr or any other leader of the Wolverines has had. Breaston's catches have dropped each year, from 38 to 34 to 26. But he averaged 10.1 yards per rush last year and nearly beat Minnesota with a 95-yard kickoff return.

Without Avant's league-high 82 catches for 1,007 yards and eight scores, look for sophomore Mario Manningham to have more heroics like his game-winning grab against Penn State. Senior wideout Carl Tabb and sophomores Adrian Arrington and Doug Dutch should contribute. And senior Tyler Ecker could be a terrific tight end.

The defensive front loses two starters but returns senior end LaMarr Woodley, who had seven sacks, and junior tackle Alan Branch, who had three sacks in the Alamo Bowl. Another player to watch is sophomore tackle Terry Taylor.

Senior inside linebacker David Harris led the team with 88 stops, while senior outside 'backer Prescott Burgess had 81. Junior inside man Chris Graham is another returning starter.

Hall had 61 tackles, two sacks, four interceptions and a game-changing 83-yard fumble return at Northwestern. Senior safeties Willis Barringer, Brandent Englemon and Ryan Mundy also return.

Pudgy placekicker Garrett Rivas and punter Ross Ryan are back for one more year. But will Michigan be back where it belongs?

NEXT BIG THING

JAKE LONG, junior offensive tackle

As a boy, Jake Long grew up just an hour's drive from the Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. He watched the school's football games on TV every fall Saturday with his father and dreamed of someday playing for the Wolverines.

Fast-forward to 2006, a time when everyone in "The Big House" and beyond will be keeping an eye on Long, who, at 6-7 and 316 pounds, represents a key cog in Michigan's offensive line. Now a junior, Long is moving from right tackle to left tackle, considered by many the most demanding position for an offensive lineman because it is a spot that protects a right-handed quarterback's blind side (in this case, Chad Henne).

"I feel really comfortable with the move," Long says. "The first day [of spring practice] felt a little awkward with the footwork, but after that, it felt good. There is a great tradition for the O-line at Michigan and we want to carry that on."

Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst, points to Long's standout prep career in other sports as proof of his athleticism.

At Lapeer High School, Long played first base and set school records for home runs and RBI as a junior. As the starting center on the basketball team, Long's 62-percent shooting percentage established a new school standard as well.

"You know he's a little nimble because he did those things in high school," Davis says. "And because he's a big kid and he's playing football at Michigan, you know his favorite thing to do is smash something. He's in the right place to do a lot of that."

Expectations among Michigan coaches are running high. Coach Lloyd Carr describes Long as a player with enormous ability and gushes over his potential.

"He's got the kind of temperament that is conducive to greatness and I think that he loves the game," Carr says. "When you have that kind of attitude, the kind of work ethic he has, I think he's on his way."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MICHIGAN	OPP
SCORING	345	244
Points Per Game	28.8	20.3
FIRST DOWNS	259	223
Rushing	111	93
Passing	130	114
Penalty	18	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	1939	1648
Yards gained rushing	2153	1989
Yards lost rushing	214	341
Rushing Attempts	499	430
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.8
Average Per Game	161.6	137.3
TDs Rushing	16	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2672	2494
Att-Comp-Int	409-238-8	391-223-12
Average Per Pass	6.5	6.4
Average Per Catch	11.2	11.2
Average Per Game	222.7	207.8
TDs Passing	23	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	4611	4142
Total Plays	908	821
Average Per Play	5.1	5.0
Average Per Game	384.2	345.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	40-936	27-585
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-423	17-85
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-95	8-81
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4	21.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.8	5.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	7.9	10.1
FUMBLES-LOST	20-10	23-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	48-382	75-628
Average Per Game	31.8	52.3
PUNTS-YARDS	55-2076	70-2926
Average Per Punt	37.7	41.8
Net punt average	36.2	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:23	28:37
3RD-DOWN CONV.	78/188	60/168
3rd-Down Pct	41%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/23	2/8
4th-Down Pct	52%	25%
SACKS BY-YARDS	24-187	24-132
MISC YARDS	83	125
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	41	28
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	20-27	16-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	35-37	24-25
ATTENDANCE	776405	280138
Games/Avg Per Game	7/110915	4/70034
Neutral Site Games		1/62000

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Michigan	94	123	38	81	9	345
Opponent	51	71	22	97	3	244

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Chad Henne

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	129.60	382-223-8	58.4	2526	23	210.5

Matt Gutierrez

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	114.42	22-14-0	63.6	133	0	16.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike Hart	8	150	662	4.4	4	82.8
Kevin Grady	11	121	483	4.0	5	43.9
Jerome Jackson	10	54	228	4.2	3	22.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jason Avant	12	82	1007	12.3	8	83.9
M. Manningham	12	27	433	16.0	6	36.1
Steve Breaston	11	26	291	11.2	2	26.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
David Harris	11	52	36	88
Grant Mason	12	60	25	85
Prescott Burgess	12	45	36	81

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
LaMarr Woodley	11	7.0	57
Alan Branch	12	5.0	13
Shawn Crable	12	3.0	30

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Leon Hall	4	10	2.5	0
Willis Barringer	2	14	7.0	0
Brandon Harrison	2	47	23.5	0

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
11-1	7-1

(beat Florida State in the Orange Bowl, 26-23)

Stadium: Beaver Stadium (107,282)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Joe Paterno, 41st year (354-117-3)
Career record: 354-117-3
Assistant coaches: Dick Anderson (off. line), Tom Bradley (def. coord.), Galen Hall (off. coord./RBs), Larry Johnson (def. line) Bill Kenney (off. tackles/TEs), Mike McQueary (asst. WRs/recruiting coord.), Brian Norwood (def. backs), Jay Paterno (QBs), Ron Vanderlinden (LBs)

Nittany Lions should have Paterno roaring into his 80s

Just when cynics said Joe Paterno had rigor mortis, his team made a run at immortality. Perhaps when people say, "Life begins at 40," they mean in your 40th season as a head coach.

The never-say-die Nittany Lions were 11-1 and one second from perfection in perhaps Paterno's finest season. That's saying more than any three-hour lecture could for the second-winningest leader in Divison I-A history.

Penn State shared the Big Ten title with Ohio State, a team the Lions beat 17-10, and shredded opposing offenses from Sept. 3 to Jan. 3. Actually, it was well into Jan. 4, when the Lions outlasted Florida State in triple overtime at the Orange Bowl.

For Paterno and the Seminoles' Bobby Bowden, who have combined for 713 wins, "A Pleaser from the Geezers" was proof that age is just a number—unless your program had four losing records in five years, as Penn State did.

That 26-33 skid in Unhappy Valley from 2000-04 made last season more amazing and rewarding. The transformation started when Paterno showed he was willing to change more than his white socks to win again.

Paterno will be 80 years old when he leads the Lions into postseason play for the 33rd time, probably in January 2007. But Paterno has been more than paternal to Penn State players and coaches since 1950, his first year as Rip Engel's rookie assistant.

Though Paterno has assistants who have won in Beaver Stadium longer than any two seniors have been alive, he has learned to trust his freshmen, too. And why shouldn't he treat them all like his great-grandsons?

The Lions treated their pride to the program's 13th top-five finish in the polls since 1968. Without a last-gasp pass by Michigan, we would have had a BCS debate for the ages, not just the aged.

It won't be the same without Michael Robinson, a superior leader, at quarterback. With 12 other starters gone, the thought is that 2005 was an anomaly. But a 10-win season still seems possible with a handful of superb players.

Actually, the future is bright. Three Penn State players earned Freshman All-America mention last year. A fourth was a lock to make it if he hadn't been injured in Week Seven. And Paterno's staff landed the league's top incoming class again.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**A.J. Wallace**, DB, 6-1, 195 *Top cover cornerback should see time this year.*
2	**Maurice Evans**, DE, 6-3, 260 *New York pipeline pays dividends.*
3	**Antonio Logan-El**, OL, 6-4, 307 *Massive blocker may play early.*
4	**Jared Odrick**, DE, 6-5, 285 *A defensive bookend with Evans.*
5	**Evan Royster**, RB, 6-0, 200 *Virginian cold be a future star.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Akron	
S.9	@NOTRE DAME	
S.16	Youngstown State	
S.23	@OHIO STATE	17-10
S.30	Northwestern	34-29
O.7	@MINNESOTA	44-14
O.14	Michigan	25-27
O.21	Illinois	63-10
O.28	@PURDUE	33-15
N.4	@WISCONSIN	35-14
N.11	Temple	
N.18	Michigan State	31-22

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Nittany Lions need to play winning football for 60 minutes this time, not for 59:59.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/25

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Anthony Morelli (6-4, 214, Jr.)
FB	30	BranDon Snow (6-1, 242, Sr.)
TB	26	Tony Hunt (6-2, 219, Sr.)
LT	67	Levi Brown (6-5, 324, Sr.)
LG	76	Gerald Cadogan (6-5, 302, So.)
C	57	A.Q. Shipley (6-1, 292, So.)
RG	65	Robert Price (6-0, 298, Sr.)
RT	78	John Shaw (6-4, 294, Jr.)
TE	44	Patrick Hall (6-2, 251, Sr.)
WR	3	Deon Butler (5-10, 163, So.)
WR	2	Derrick Williams (6-0, 201, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	47	Josh Gaines (6-2, 258, So.)
DT	13	Jay Alford (6-3, 288, Sr.)
DT	92	Ed Johnson (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DE	99	Jim Shaw (6-3, 260, Sr.)
OLB	40	Dan Connor (6-3, 220, Jr.)
MLB	20	Tim Shaw (6-1, 233, Sr.)
OLB	31	Paul Posluszny (6-2, 229, Sr.)
CB	1	Justin King (6-0, 181, So.)
CB	11	Tony Davis (5-10, 189, So.)
S	6	Donnie Johnson (6-0, 205, Sr.)
HER	24	Nolan McCready (6-0, 199, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	23	Kevin Kelly (5-7, 175, So.)
P	36	Jeremy Kapinos (6-1, 222, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Junior Anthony Morelli has been groomed to replace Robinson, co-Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year and a fourth-round draft pick by San Francisco. Robinson produced 3,156 yards of offense and 28 touchdowns last year. Morelli appeared in six games (13-for-20, 155 yards).

The strength of the offense should be a precocious corps of wide receivers, including five of the best sophomores a Big Ten team has seen. Deon Butler, Jordan Norwood, Derrick Williams, Justin King and 2005 injury-redshirt Mark Rubin have done more in one season than many do in a career.

Butler led the Lions with 37 catches for 691 yards and nine scores, including five grabs for 125 yards and two TDs against Wisconsin. Norwood was next with 32 receptions for 422 yards, including six for 110 in the Orange Bowl.

Williams—the nation's top recruit last season in the eyes of many—was the No. 1 target before he broke his arm in the Michigan game. He had 22 catches for 289 yards and one TD, including a 36-yard grab-and-go with 51 seconds left that beat Northwestern. Williams had 668 all-purpose yards and made defenses gasp all year.

King, who could become the nation's best cornerback by his junior season, had receptions of 57 and 39 yards and reverses of 61 and 43. He capped a terrific debut with five catches against Florida State and averaged an almost-obscene 12.6 yards per carry.

Rubin, who dislocated an ankle in the preseason, started six of the final seven games in 2004 and could contribute again as a possession receiver. He had 16 grabs before the other sophomores' first snaps.

Penn State has always been a running team, even when its quarterback doesn't rush for 806 yards as Robinson did. Its No. 1 ball-carrier, senior tailback Tony Hunt, ran for 1,047 yards, 6.0 yards per carry and six scores despite sitting out all but the first series against Florida State with an ankle injury. He also caught 20 passes for 206 yards.

Senior Austin Scott is more than your average backup. Taking over for Hunt in the Orange Bowl, he rushed for 110 yards and two scores in the third 100-yard game of his career.

Senior left tackle Levi Brown is the Big Ten's second-best offensive lineman. The second-team All-American helped the Lions lead the league in scoring with 35.2 points per game. He has started 34 times.

Paul Posluszny, OLB

The rest of the front wall on offense needs nametags. Both guards, the center, the right tackle and the tight end will be new. In fact, Penn State's second-best blocker might be senior fullback BranDon Snow (6-1, 242).

The defense, No. 2 in the Big Ten last year (17.0 points and 304.7 yards per game), returns only four starters. King could have been the fifth if he hadn't played offense. But those four are as good as any group in college football.

The best in the country is senior outside linebacker Paul Posluszny, last year's winner of the Butkus Award as the nation's top 'backer and the Bednarik Award as its top defender. No less an expert than Hall-of-Famer Jack Ham called him "the best linebacker ever to play at Penn State."

Posluszny, a blue-collar player, had his second season with 100-plus tackles, finishing with 116, including 11 behind the line. The seventh Lion to earn All-America and Academic All-America honors in one season needs 88 tackles to become the program's all-time leader.

Even with Posluszny sidelined by a knee injury late in the Orange Bowl, Penn State allowed just 26 rushing yards, 12 first downs and three-for-17 success on third down. A big reason was the play of the junior outside linebacker Dan Connor and senior middle 'backer Tim Shaw.

Connor, who is ahead of Posluszny's pace with 161 career tackles, had 12 against Ohio State and nine more at Michigan. Shaw had 76 hits and caused two fumbles that were returned for TDs.

The Lions will miss All-America end Tamba Hali, the Big Ten's sack leader and a first-round pick of Kansas City. But the only returning starter up front, senior tackle Jay Alford, was fourth in the league with 8.5 sacks and a second-team all-conference pick.

The other three down linemen and all four starters in the secondary will be new. Senior tackle Ed Johnson, back in school after starting three games in 2004, and senior end Jim Shaw could contribute. Senior safeties Donnie Johnson and Nolan McCready should help King's conversion.

For Penn State to be king again, sophomore placekicker Kevin Kelly, a Freshman All-American, and senior punter Jeremy Kapinos will have to make Paterno feel like coaching another 10 years.

NEXT BIG THING

JUSTIN KING, sophomore cornerback

To many Penn State fans, Justin King gave the briefly downtrodden Nittany Lions their swagger back.

It was King, after all, who signed with Penn State in November 2004 and enrolled in school two months later. At the time, he was the nation's top prep cornerback and wielded considerable influence with several other top recruits. King helped Penn State persuade Derrick Williams, the nation's top-rated player, to come to Happy Valley with him.

The results are obvious: King turned in a strong freshman season, contributing to a team that posted an 11-1 record, capped by a win over Florida State in the Orange Bowl. Along the way, King, Williams and others set Penn State on a new course—converting a stodgy style of football into a sleeker, speedier attack.

"It feels good," King says. "But it wasn't just me [that turned things around]. It was Penn State. People realized it is a great place to be and the school speaks for itself."

Now King is ready to speak even louder on the field. Much of his freshman season centered on learning the college game and adjusting to more intense competition.

Unlike high school, King says, college ball doesn't permit players to get by on raw talent.

"You have to learn to anticipate and study your opponents," he says. "I'm starting to get to that point where the game is slowing down for me, where it doesn't feel like everything is moving so fast."

Learning strategy and studying film is hardly foreign for King. His stepfather, Terry Smith, is a former Penn State player and coached King during a stellar prep career at Gateway High School in Pittsburgh.

After the Orange Bowl season in 2005, King says his decision to come to Penn State—made when the school was suffering in football—feels all the better.

"I saw 110,000 people supporting the team even when things weren't so good, and I knew this was a place for me," he says. "The support is crazy, in a good way. And it's a blessing to play for Coach [Joe] Paterno."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	PSU	OPP
SCORING	413	204
Points Per Game	34.4	17.0
FIRST DOWNS	261	209
Rushing	135	77
Passing	106	118
Penalty	20	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2553	1116
Yards gained rushing	2826	1514
Yards lost rushing	273	398
Rushing Attempts	503	442
Average Per Rush	5.1	2.5
Average Per Game	212.8	93.0
TDs Rushing	29	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2505	2540
Att-Comp-Int	331-175-10	435-246-16
Average Per Pass	7.6	5.8
Average Per Catch	14.3	10.3
Average Per Game	208.8	211.7
TDs Passing	18	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	5058	3656
Total Plays	834	877
Average Per Play	6.1	4.2
Average Per Game	421.5	304.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-612	59-1225
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	38-401	25-294
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-170	10-115
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.9	20.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	11.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.6	11.5
FUMBLES-LOST	23-12	16-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-422	84-709
Average Per Game	35.2	59.1
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2522	84-3491
Average Per Punt	41.3	41.6
Net punt average	36.5	36.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:33	30:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	73/166	71/207
3rd-Down Pct	44%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/6	9/18
4th-Down Pct	100%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	41-272	14-99
MISC YARDS	69	23
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	52	24
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	16-23	12-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	49-51	16-17
ATTENDANCE	734013	263282
Games/Avg Per Game	7/104859	4/65820
Neutral Site Games		1/77773

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Penn State	82	147	68	106	10	413
Opponents	23	56	28	90	7	204

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Michael Robinson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	127.17	311-162-10	52.1	2350	17	195.8

Anthony Morelli

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	146.60	20-13-0	65.0	155	1	25.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Hunt	12	174	1047	6.0	6	87.2
M. Robinson	12	163	806	4.9	11	67.2
Austin Scott	11	66	273	4.1	3	24.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Deon Butler	12	37	691	18.7	9	57.6
J. Norwood	10	32	422	13.2	0	42.2
D. Williams	7	22	289	13.1	1	41.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Paul Posluszny	12	64	52	116
Chris Harrell	12	50	38	88
Calvin Lowry	12	48	31	79

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Tamba Hali	12	11.0	79
Jay Alford	12	8.5	57
Matthew Rice	12	5.0	40

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Alan Zemaitis	6	35	5.8	0
Calvin Lowry	4	36	9.0	0
Anwar Phillips	1	7	7.0	0

IOWA HAWKEYES

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
7-5	5-3

(lost to Florida in the Outback Bowl, 31-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Montana	
S.9	@SYRACUSE	
S.16	Iowa State	3-23
S.23	@ILLINOIS	35-7
S.30	Ohio State	6-31
O.7	Purdue	34-17
O.14	@INDIANA	38-21
O.21	@MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)
O.28	Northern Illinois	
N.4	Northwestern	27-28
N.11	Wisconsin	20-10
N.18	@MINNESOTA	52-28

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

A payback upset of the visiting Buckeyes would make Iowa the Big Ten team to beat.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/25

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Drew Tate (6-0, 192, Sr.)
FB	35	Tom Busch (5-11, 231, Jr.)
RB	21	Albert Young (5-10, 209, Jr.)
LT	78	Dace Richardson (6-6, 306, So.)
LG	76	Mike Jones (6-5, 299, Sr.)
C	54	Mike Elgin (6-4, 288, Sr.)
RG	71	Seth Olsen (6-5, 301, So.)
RT	73	Marshal Yanda (6-4, 305, Sr.)
TE	87	Scott Chandler (6-7, 257, Sr.)
WR	22	Calvin Davis (6-1, 197, Sr.)
WR	4	Herb Grigsby (6-0, 175, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Ken Iwebema (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DT	53	Matt Kroul (6-3, 271, So.)
DT	47	Mitch King (6-3, 264, So.)
DE	99	Bryan Mattison (6-3, 272, Jr.)
OLB	27	Edmond Miles (6-1, 228, Sr.)
MLB	40	Mike Klinkenborg (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WLB	44	Mike Humpal (6-2, 232, Jr.)
LCB	19	Adam Shada (6-1, 185, Jr.)
RCB	13	Charles Godfrey (6-1, 208, Jr.)
FS	25	Marcus Paschal (6-0, 207, Sr.)
SS	15	Miguel Merrick (6-0, 203, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	1	Kyle Schlicher (5-9, 184, Sr.)
P	6	Andy Fenstermaker (6-3, 225, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Kirk Ferentz, 8th year (49-36)
Career record: 61-57
Assistant coaches: Ron Bernard Aiken (def. line), Lester Erb (WRs/special teams), Carl Jackson (RBs), Eric Johnson (recruiting coord./TEs), Reese Morgan (off. line), Ken O'Keefe (off. coord./QBs), Norm Parker (def. coord./ILBs), Phil Parker (def. backs), Darrell Wilson (OLBs/special teams)

Tate's arm and Young legs will have Hawkeyes contending

It could have been so much better last season. But with a fourth straight January bowl appearance, a feat matched only by USC, Georgia and Florida State, the Hawkeyes could have done worse.

To finish 7-5 and still get to play on Jan. 2 speaks volumes about Kirk Ferentz's program and its have-game-will-travel following. Who cares if Iowa's win total has dipped from 11 in the 2002 season to 10 in 2003-04 and then to seven?

With an overtime loss to Michigan and a giveaway at Northwestern, the Hawkeyes settled for a 5-3 conference finish and a share of third place last season. But no team has had more than their 25 Big Ten wins over the past four years. With two league titles and three top-10 finishes in the polls, Iowa has given its fans an eyeful.

That should continue this year, especially on offense. Iowa averaged 30 points per game last season and was third in the league in passing. The fireworks could be even brighter with senior quarterback Drew Tate and junior running back Albert Young, a pair of All-America candidates.

Tate was fourth in the conference in passing efficiency with 62.2-percent accuracy, 2,828 yards and 22 scores, with just seven interceptions. He was a first-team All-Big Ten selection in 2004 and improved on most of those numbers as a junior. Tate ranks fifth in school history in air yards and should climb to second, behind only Chuck Long.

If every successful program has a signature moment, Tate's last-snap TD toss in the 2005 Capital One Bowl to beat LSU is the Hawkeyes' favorite highlight. It's that kind of creativity and flair for the dramatic that makes Iowa a title threat as long as Tate has a helmet.

Young was fourth in the league in rushing with 1,334 yards, a 5.4-yard average and eight TDs in '05. But his 1,002 yards in conference play, including a school-record seven straight 100-yard games, led the Big Ten. He ran for 202 yards at Northwestern, 165 at Purdue and 153 against Michigan. Young also caught 24 passes for 244 yards.

The Hawkeyes have had a 1,000-yard rusher in five of the past six seasons, with the lone exception being an injury-ravaged 2004. But should Young go down, Iowa has solid backups in junior Damian Sims (5-9, 185 pounds) and sophomore Shonn Greene (5-11, 225). Sims averaged 9.9 yards on 30 carries last year.

Junior Tom Busch started all 12 games last season and was an excellent lead blocker. He picked up 60 yards on 13 touches as a runner and receiver and is capable of more. So are Busch's backups, senior Champ Davis (6-2, 238) and freshman Kalvin Bailey (6-0, 240).

The offensive line loses left tackle Ben Gates and center Brian Ferentz. But with returning seniors Mike Jones, Mike Elgin and Marshal Yanda, impressive depth and the projected comeback of Lee Gray, a 2004 starter, Tate and Young should have plenty of able bodyguards.

Jones started at both tackle spots and at left guard last season. He should be strictly a guard this year. Elgin, who started every game at right guard, should return to center, where he played in 2004. And Yanda is projected as the No. 1 right tackle after starting the last eight games there and also playing left guard.

Sophomore Dace Richardson played as a true freshman and will have every chance to start at left tackle. But Gray started 11 games there two years ago before undergoing preseason knee surgery. And 11 other linemen with solid credentials are waiting for opportunities.

Senior tight end Scott Chandler has the long arms to be another good blocker and the soft hands to be Iowa's leading receiver, as he was last year with 47 catches for 552 yards and two scores. Senior Ryan Majerus (6-3, 245) had 10 grabs for 95 yards and two TDs, while sophomore Tony Moeaki (6-4, 250) added eight receptions for 112 yards.

Wide receiver is a potential problem area with the departure of Ed Hinkel, Clinton Solomon and Matt Melloy. Hinkel and Solomon combined for 86 catches, 1,318 yards and 14 scores as seniors. Hinkel was also a valuable punt returner.

Senior Calvin Davis (6-1, 197) and junior Herb Grigsby (6-0, 175) are the probable starting wideouts. Davis started four games in 2003, while Grigsby filled in for three games last season. Tate can make both players look better.

The Hawkeyes have seven starters back on defense, but the losses are sure to be felt. Linebackers Chad Greenway, the first-round draft pick of Minnesota, and Abdul Hodge, a third-round choice of Green Bay, were the top two tacklers in the league last year. And cornerbacks Antwan Allen and Jovon Johnson had a combined 85 starts.

That means the strength of the defense, at least initially, should be the front four. Last year's rebuilt line took some time to develop, a problem that shouldn't confront Defensive Coordinator Norm Parker, who's been a finalist the past two seasons

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Jeremiha Hunter**, LB, 6-2, 217 *Pennsylvania product opts for Midwest.*
2	**Adrian Clayborn**, DL, 6-3, 250 *Undersized down lineman could bulk up.*
3	**A.J. Edds**, LB, 6-4, 224 *Biggest Hawkeye need was at this position.*
4	**Arvell Nelson**, QB, 6-4, 175 *Athletic Ohio product may contribute.*
5	**Anthony Bowman**, DB, 5-11, 165 *Finding best position for this great athlete is the big goal.*

Drew Tate, QB

for the Broyles Award, which is given to the country's top assistant coach.

Junior ends Ken Iwebema and Bryan Mattison started every game as sophomores and combined for 19.5 tackles for losses. Iwebema was a first-team All-Big Ten pick with seven sacks, a forced fumble and two blocked kicks.

Sophomores Matt Kroul and Mitch King got a baptism by fire at tackle. Kroul started every game, while King started the last nine and was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week for his work against Wisconsin, when the Badgers scored just 10 points and NFL draftee Brian Calhoun was held to 18 yards rushing.

Without Hodge's 158 tackles and Greenway's 156 last season, the bulk of the stops should go to senior outside linebacker Edmond Miles, who started every game and had 68 hits, nine behind the line of scrimmage. He should be better this time. He'd better be.

Juniors Mike Humpal and Mike Klinkenborg are set to fill the spots, if not the shoes, of Greenway and Hodge. If Ferentz gets 75 percent of those stars' production, his team will play on New Year's Day.

The falloff at the corners could be just as costly. Allen had 235 career tackles and eight interceptions. And Johnson had 181 stops and 17 picks, the second-highest total in school history. Juniors Charles Godfrey, a converted safety, and Adam Shada are the logical fill-ins.

The safety net in the secondary is the return of senior safeties Marcus Paschal and Miguel Merrick. Paschal has started 23 games and Merrick 12. However, they haven't faced the challenges they will with new corners.

The kicking game should be a definite plus with senior placekicker Kyle Schlicher and senior punter Andy Fenstermaker. Schlicher, as in kicker, was 17-for-21 on field goals last season and is 38-for-47 in his career. Fenstermaker averaged 38.5 yards per punt and had 21 boots downed inside the 20-yard line.

The Hawkeyes will get their kicks again, probably in Florida or Texas the week after Christmas. If they head to Pasadena, they'll threaten the records for fun there, too.

NEXT BIG THING

ALBERT YOUNG, junior running back

If the name Albert Young doesn't impress you much at first, you're not alone. Iowa Coach Kirk Ferentz felt the same way after an initial glance.

Ferentz paid little attention to Young after a Hawkeyes assistant made mention of recruiting the running back based on a standout prep career in New Jersey. The assistant, Darrell Wilson, never let up.

"He was insistent," Ferentz recalls. "And after I met with Albert, I was impressed. He has a presence about him."

And when Young took the practice field? "He's one of those guys who's faster, who's better in person than he is on film. I can't say enough about the guy."

Last season, Young quietly put together one of the finest performances by an Iowa running back in school history. He became the first Hawkeye to lead the Big Ten in rushing since 1979, averaging 125 yards rushing per game in league play.

For the season, Young gained 1,334 yards on 249 carries and scored eight touchdowns. His success followed frustration early in his college career: As a true freshman, he suffered a broken fibula and, after returning from that injury, tore an ACL.

"It was an emotional roller coaster," Young recalls. "You keep getting excited for the season and then you keep having everything taken away. I was frustrated because you work so hard for 12 games a year and then you can't play. It's made me appreciate everything a lot more because I know it can all slip away in a split second."

After last season's heroics, more observers appreciate Young as well.

"Two years ago, Iowa couldn't run the football—it was all [quarterback] Drew Tate," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "Now, all of the sudden, Albert Young enters the picture and they can run the football. He's just a terrific football player and a big part of what Iowa will do this season."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	IOWA	OPP
SCORING	360	240
Points Per Game	30.0	20.0
FIRST DOWNS	272	256
Rushing	107	95
Passing	148	146
Penalty	17	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2096	1512
Yards gained rushing	2321	1796
Yards lost rushing	225	284
Rushing Attempts	436	470
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.2
Average Per Game	174.7	126.0
TDs Rushing	19	10
PASSING YARDAGE	3093	3080
Att-Comp-Int	404-245-8	445-276-10
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.9
Average Per Catch	12.6	11.2
Average Per Game	257.8	256.7
TDs Passing	23	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	5189	4592
Total Plays	840	915
Average Per Play	6.2	5.0
Average Per Game	432.4	382.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-454	43-640
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-340	16-86
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-68	8-237
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	16.2	14.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.1	5.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	6.8	29.6
FUMBLES-LOST	15-9	14-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	52-447	65-500
Average Per Game	37.2	41.7
PUNTS-YARDS	58-2225	73-2985
Average Per Punt	38.4	40.9
Net punt average	36.9	36.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	27:33	32:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/160	91/201
3rd-Down Pct	41%	45%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	2/8	7/19
4th-Down Pct	25%	37%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-115	19-115
MISC YARDS	38	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	44	32
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	17-21	6-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	43-44	30-31
ATTENDANCE	423510	342034
Games/Avg Per Game	6/70585	5/68407
Neutral Site Games		1/65881

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Iowa	119	95	61	82	3	360
Opponents	37	79	41	77	6	240

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Drew Tate

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	146.35	352-219-7	62.2	2828	22	235.7

Jason Manson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
7	86.08	48-24-1	50.0	230	0	32.9

Cy Phillips

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	87.80	2-1-0	50.0	9	0	4.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Albert Young	12	249	1334	5.4	8	111.2
Damian Sims	11	30	296	9.9	4	26.9
Shonn Greene	11	37	173	4.7	1	15.7

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Scott Chandler	12	47	552	11.7	2	46.0
Clinton Solomon	12	46	800	17.4	7	66.7
Ed Hinkel	9	40	518	12.9	7	57.6

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Abdul Hodge	12	98	60	158
Chad Greenway	12	95	61	156
Edmond Miles	12	37	31	68

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Kenny Iwebema	12	7.0	38
Bryan Mattison	12	4.0	19
Ryan Bain	12	4.0	12

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Adam Shada	3	9	3.0	0
Jovon Johnson	3	18	6.0	1
Miguel Merrick	1	20	20.0	0

WISCONSIN BADGERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
10-3	5-3

(beat Auburn in the Capital One Bowl, 24-10)

Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium (79,500)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bret Bielema, 1st year
Assistant coaches: Bob Bostad (TEs), Paul Chryst (off. coord./QBs), Kerry Cooks (def. backs), Dave Doeren (co-def. coord./LBs), Mike Hankwitz (def. coord.), Henry Mason (WRs), Randall McCray (def. line), Bob Palcic (off. line), John Settle (RBs)

Life after Barry is going to take some getting used to in Madison

The Badgers have had just 12 seasons with eight or more triumphs in the past century. Ten of those came in the last 13 years under the direction of Barry Alvarez.

Before we send Alvarez to the director of athletics' box in Camp Randall Stadium and salute the arrival of coaching heir Bret Bielema, let's take one more look at one of the most underrated architects in college football history.

Alvarez's 118 wins are the eighth-highest total for a Big Ten leader. His 3-0 Rose Bowl record is the conference's all-time best. And his 8-3 postseason mark is No. 1 in NCAA annals for coaches with 11 or more bowl opportunities.

Enter Bielema, the youngest head coach in Division I-A at 36 and the only one born in the 1970s. After assisting Hayden Fry and Kirk Ferentz at Iowa for nine seasons and aiding Bill Snyder at Kansas State for two more, the former Hawkeye walk-on-turned-captain made his way to Madison in 2004.

As the defensive boss for teams that went 19-6, ranked sixth in the nation in points allowed and stunned seventh-ranked Auburn on Jan. 2 in Orlando, Bielema showed the work ethic he developed on his family's hog farm in Prophetstown, Ill.

For Wisconsin to equal last season's 10-3 mark or even match a 5-3 Big Ten finish, Bielema and coordinator Paul Chryst will have to find eight new starters for an I-formation offense that averaged 34.3 points a game.

The biggest losses, running back Brian Calhoun and receiver/return man Brandon Williams, were one-two in the league in all-purpose yards with a combined 334.3 per game. They were also third-round draft picks of Detroit and San Francisco, respectively.

The top returnee is All-Big Ten left tackle Joe Thomas, a second-team All-American as a junior who should be one of the first offensive linemen on NFL lists next April. His smarts, strength and sleeve length are unmatched in the college game.

Also back are sophomore guard Kraig Urbik, a bookend bodyguard, and unsung senior quarterback John Stocco. Stocco's 25 straight starts is the fourth-longest streak among active Division I-A signal-callers. Only Matt Leinart of USC, Vince Young of Texas and Jared Zabransky of Boise State won more games as No. 1 quarterbacks the past two years.

Stocco was third in the conference in passing efficiency with 60.1-percent accuracy, and added 2,920 yards, 21 scores and nine interceptions. His yardage, touchdowns and 197 completions were all school records. But his biggest play was a four-yard draw for the winning TD against Michigan.

His top three receivers—Williams, Calhoun and Jonathan Orr, a sixth-round pick of the Tennessee Titans—had 152 catches for 2,354 yards and 16 scores, leaving a huge void. It doesn't help that tight ends Owen Daniels and Jason Pociask went to Houston in the fourth round and the Jets in the fifth round, respectively.

Junior Marcus Randle El, Antwaan's brother, should be the go-to wideout. Juniors Jarvis Minton and Paul Hubbard will battle to start on the opposite flank, while junior Andy Crooks, a converted linebacker, and sophomore Sean Lewis, an ex-quarterback, will battle at tight end. That foursome combined for two catches last year.

Redshirt freshman P.J. Hill (5-11, 235) is about 40 pounds heavier than Calhoun at running back. But he's 2,207 rushing and receiving yards and 24 TDs lighter on last year's stats line. Junior Jamil Walker (6-2, 221), the top returning ball-carrier with 96 yards, is another possibility.

The Badgers could have the Big Ten's top defense with eight starters back, including senior linebacker Mark Zalewski and senior safeties Joe Stellmacher and Roderick Rogers, all three all-conference candidates. Stellmacher and Zalewski teamed for 173 tackles, while Rogers averaged 31.3 yards on three interception returns.

Other key returnees include sophomore end Matthew Shaughnessy, tackles Nick Hayden and Jason Chapman, senior end Joe Monty and sophomore cornerback Allen Langford.

Junior Ken DeBauche was the league's best punter last season with a 44.8-yard average and 22 kicks downed inside the opponents' 20. And junior Taylor Mehlhaff was 14-for-20 on field goals. He won't get the chance to kick 56 extra points again.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Jake Bscherer**, OL, 6-7, 285 *Early Badger recruit passes eye test.*
2	**Gabe Carimi**, OL, 6-8, 280 *Gives Badgers two in-state 'twins' on line.*
3	**Lance Kendricks**, WR, 6-4, 210 *Big wideout shows promise.*
4	**Brad Thorson**, OL, 6-4, 285 *Another massive in-state blocker.*
5	**Daven Jones**, WR, 6-1, 190 *Athletic receiver who can motor.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@BOWLING GREEN*	56-42
S.9	Western Illinois	
S.16	San Diego State	
S.23	@MICHIGAN	23-20
S.30	@INDIANA	41-24
O.7	Northwestern	48-51
O.14	Minnesota	38-34
O.21	@PURDUE	31-20
O.28	Illinois	41-24
N.4	Penn State	14-35
N.11	@IOWA	10-20
N.18	Buffalo	

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Defense could rule in a rematch of last season's giveaway, a 99-point game.

** at Cleveland*

PROJECTED STARTERS

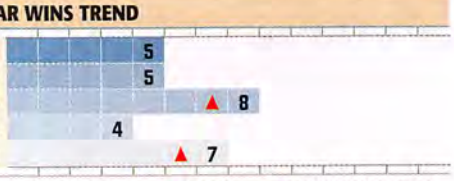
Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/18

OFFENSE		
QB	7	John Stocco (6-2, 206, Sr.)
FB	44	Chris Pressley (6-1, 268, Jr.)
TB	39	P.J. Hill (5-11, 235, Fr.)
LT	72	Joe Thomas (6-8, 306, Sr.)
LG	75	Andy Kemp (6-6, 321, So.)
C	65	Marcus Coleman (6-6, 314, Jr.)
RG	63	Kraig Urbik (6-6, 321, So.)
RT	71	Eric Vanden Heuvel (6-7, 326, So.)
TE	82	Sean Lewis (6-7, 245, So.)
WR	13	Marcus Randle El (5-10, 191, Jr.)
WR	19	Paul Hubbard (6-4, 218, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Joe Monty (6-2, 258, Sr.)
DT	91	Jason Chapman (6-4, 283, So.)
DT	96	Nick Hayden (6-5, 310, Jr.)
DE	92	Matthew Shaughnessy (6-6, 227, So.)
OLB	7	DeAndre Levy (6-3, 220, So.)
MLB	41	Mark Zalewski (6-2, 236, Sr.)
OLB	46	Jonathan Casillas (6-2, 208, So.)
LCB	17	Allen Langford (5-11, 188, So.)
RCB	27	Jack Ikegwuonu (6-1, 199, So.)
FS	22	Roderick Rogers (6-2, 186, Sr.)
SS	16	Joe Stellmacher (6-1, 222, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Taylor Mehlhaff (5-11, 185, Jr.)
P	94	Ken DeBauche (6-2, 221, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
5-6	2-6

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Idaho	
S.9	Eastern Michigan	
S.16	@PITTSBURGH	
S.23	Notre Dame	44-41 (OT)
S.30	Illinois	61-14
O.7	@MICHIGAN	31-34 (OT)
O.14	Ohio State	24-35
O.21	@NORTHWESTERN	14-49
O.28	@INDIANA	46-15
N.4	Purdue	21-28
N.11	Minnesota	18-41
N.18	@PENN STATE	22-31

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

In an ABC night game, the Spartans will try to go 8-2 vs. ND since 1997.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/13

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Drew Stanton (6-3, 230, Sr.)
RB	23	Javon Ringer (5-9, 202, So.)
LT	66	Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 304, Jr.)
LG	74	Kyle Cook (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	54	John Masters (6-4, 299, Jr.)
RG	73	Roland Martin (6-5, 324, So.)
RT	79	Jesse Miller (6-6, 306, So.)
TE	80	Kellen Davis (6-6, 247, Jr.)
WR	6	Matt Trannon (6-6, 227, Sr.)
WR	18	Terry Love (5-11, 172, Jr.)
WR	32	Jerramy Scott (5-10, 186, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	47	Brandon Long (6-4, 237, So.)
DT	17	David Stanton (6-3, 291, Sr.)
DT	92	Clifton Ryan (6-2, 304, Sr.)
SLB	95	Justin Kershaw (6-4, 252, So.)
MLB	43	Kaleb Thornhill (6-1, 235, Jr.)
WLB	41	David Herron Jr. (6-1, 252, Sr.)
BAN	38	Cole Corey (5-10, 203, Jr.)
BC	37	Ross Weaver (6-1, 201, So.)
FC	29	Greg Cooper (5-11, 192, Sr.)
FS	21	Otis Wiley (6-2, 208, So.)
SS	28	Mike Bell (5-11, 186, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	15	Todd Boleski (5-9, 208, So.)
P	8	Brandon Fields (6-6, 232, Sr.)

Dear John: Please get the Spartans winning–now

If any Big Ten coach is on the hot seat, John L. Smith should get asbestos shorts. After overachieving with eight victories in 2003, his program teased us the past two Septembers, then staggered home with five wins each season.

The grumbling grew so loud last fall that Michigan State President LouAnna K. Simon and Director of Athletics Ron Mason, the winningest hockey coach in NCAA history, publicly pledged their support for Smith—and acknowledged the need for improvement.

Vote of confidence or kiss of death?

The Spartans' performance in the very near future should decide that. But if Smith's team can't do better than 1-6 in its last seven league games, no matter how impressive the start, it will be time to start over, as Michigan State seems to do every three or four years.

The Spartans have had nine head coaches in the past 34 seasons. And that includes a tumultuous 12 years under George Perles. Otherwise, the program has had eight leaders in 22 seasons. No wonder the administration wants Smith to stay put.

Smith's No. 1 hope is that senior quarterback Drew Stanton stays healthy. Before breaking a bone in his wrist and suffering in silence, Stanton was one of the best players in college football.

He was second in the conference in total offense at 310.5 yards per game. Stanton was also second in passing efficiency with a league-high 66.7-percent accuracy, along with 3,077 yards, 22 TDs and an injury-induced 12 picks.

Before spring drills began, a healthy Stanton promised Smith that he could go 15 practices without an interception. Mission accomplished. And if you start to respect his arm too much, Stanton can still beat you with his feet.

He isn't alone. Michigan State's spread offense should be even better after scoring 33.8 points and gaining 497.3 yards per game in 2005. Besides having one of the best quarterbacks in school history, the Spartans return their two leading rushers and six of Stanton's top seven receivers.

Sophomore running back Javon Ringer has amazing moves. In a three-back rotation last season, and with just one more rushing attempt than Stanton, Ringer gained 817 yards with a Big Ten-best 6.7 yards per carry. He should be well over 1,200 yards this year.

Junior Jehuu Caulcrick rushed for 478 yards, a 5.4 average and seven scores. And redshirt freshman A.J. Jimmerson can take the carries of former starter Jason Teague.

A deep receiving corps includes seniors Jerramy Scott, Matt Trannon and Kerry Reed and junior Terry Love. They combined for 148 catches and 16 scores last season, led by Scott's 49 grabs. Junior tight end Kellen Davis also has the speed to stretch a defense.

Stadium: Spartan Stadium (72,027)

The offensive line will have three new starters. Center Chris Morris will be missed, but senior guard Kyle Cook should be solid. And junior tackle Mike Gyetvai can make the switch from right to left tackle.

The defensive line also loses three regulars. Senior end Clifton Ryan is being tried inside at tackle. Senior David Stanton and JC transfer Ogemdi Nwagbuo might be good-enough tackles to keep Ryan at end. If not, juco standout Ervin Baldwin will have to deliver at end.

Senior David Herron Jr. is the best of the linebackers. When healthy, junior Kaleb Thornhill can add to the luster his dad and older brother brought to the program. And junior SirDarean Adams has big-play ability, as Notre Dame discovered last season.

Strong safety Eric Smith, last year's top tackler and team MVP, was a third-round draft pick of the New York Jets. But the secondary should be better with the shift of free safety Greg Cooper to cornerback, the improvement of senior corner Demond Williams and sophomore free safety Otis Wiley and especially the arrival of juco strong safety Nehemiah Warrick, who was the star of spring drills.

Senior punter Brandon Fields needs to return to his All-America form. And the placekicking has to be better with rocket-legged sophomore Todd Boleski and highly touted freshman Brett Swenson.

Head coach: John L. Smith, 4th year (18-18)
Career record: 128-78
Assistant coaches: Dave Baldwin (off. coord./TEs), Chris Smeland (def. coord./safeties), Mike Cox (LBs), Chuck Driesbach (secondary), Jim McElwain (asst. head coach/WRs), Doug Nussmeier (QBs), Lucious Selmon (defensive line), Ben Sirmans (RBs), Jeff Stoutland (offensive line)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Devin Thomas**, WR, 6-2, 213 *Junior-college product could start from the outset.*
2	**Vaughn Martin**, DL, 6-3, 323 *Canadian prospect seeks early playing time.*
3	**John Stipek**, TE, 6-5, 250 *In-state athlete could play on defense.*
4	**Brett Swenson**, PK, 5-8, 151 *Florida specialist is a prolific booter.*
5	**Connor Dixon**, QB, 6-4, 182 *Rangy signal-caller of the future?*

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK:

#7

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
7-5	5-3

(lost to UCLA in the Sun Bowl, 50-38)

Stadium: Ryan Field (47,130)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Randy Walker, 8th year (37-46)
Career record: 96-81-5
Assistant coaches: Jerry Brown (asst. head coach/def. backs), Greg Colby (def. coord.), Garrick McGee (off. coord.), Adam Cushing (TEs/HBs), Pat Fitzgerald (LBs/recruiting coord.), Bret Ingalls (off. line), Kevin Johns (WRs), Matt McPherson (RBs), Eric Washington (def. line)

Finding a replacement for QB Basanez is top priority for Walker's Wildcats

How tough is coaching in Evanston, Ill.? When Gary Barnett produced back-to-back Big Ten champs a decade ago, that was one more title than the Wildcats had won in 65 years. After another ring in 2000, Randy Walker waited five years for his second winning season in seven tries. He was rewarded with a contract through 2011.

The Wildcats were 7-5 last season, 5-3 in conference play, and lost 50-38 to UCLA in a bizarre Sun Bowl, when two onside kicks were returned for Bruins touchdowns. Just to reach El Paso, Northwestern had to stun Wisconsin and Iowa after losing to Penn State in the final minute.

Walker's spread attack led the league in total offense at 500.3 yards per game. But the Wildcats were last in total defense with a 480.4-yard average. They were No. 1 in first downs and No. 11 in first downs permitted. The only thing wrong with scoring 32.3 points per game was allowing 33.9.

Still, there is reason for sustained applause. The seniors' 14-10 league mark is the school's first three-year run with Big Ten records of .500 or better. And a fourth straight season with six or more wins overall would be Northwestern's best stretch since 1905.

Most of the headlines in 2005 went to All-Big Ten quarterback Brett Basanez, the media's Offensive Player of the Year, and second-team linebacker Tim McGarigle, the NCAA's all-time leader with 548 tackles. Without them, the Wildcats still return eight starters on each side of the ball.

When a hamstring injury forced senior running back Terrell Jordan to redshirt last year, Tyrell Sutton exploded onto the scene with 1,474 rushing yards, a 5.9-yard average and 16 TDs. The Big Ten's Freshman of the Year also caught 44 passes for 396 yards and two scores. Look for more two-back sets this season.

Northwestern led the league with 306.8 air yards per game, as Basanez compiled 30 school records. He was No. 1 in efficiency with 63.2-percent accuracy and added 3,622 yards, 21 TDs and eight interceptions. Sophomore C.J. Bacher and redshirt freshmen Andrew Brewer and Mike Kafka had their moments in spring drills.

Wideouts Mark Philmore and Jonathan Fields are gone, too. They combined for 115 catches. But senior Shaun Herbert led the Wildcats with 79 grabs for 862 yards and six scores. Junior Kim Thompson (6-4, 195 pounds) and sophomore Ross Lane (6-3, 190) are rangy targets who teamed for 43 receptions.

The offensive line could be the conference's best. Last year's right tackle, Zach Strief, was drafted by the New Orleans Saints, but junior left tackle Dylan Thiry (6-8, 315) and senior guards Ryan Keenan and Joe Tripodi are solid. And junior center Austin Matthews will move to right tackle with the return of 2003-04 starting center Trevor Rees.

Defensive tackle Barry Cofield was the first Wildcat drafted by the pros in 2006, a fourth-round choice of the New York Giants, but an experienced group (for one without any seniors) remains. Junior end Mark Koehn, sophomore end Kevin Mims and sophomore tackle John Gill combined for 23 starts last season.

The loss of McGarigle, a seventh-round pick of St. Louis, will leave a huge hole in the middle of an already-porous defense. Senior Demetrius Eaton, sophomore Mike Dinard and redshirt-freshman Chris Jeske will battle for playing time. The fight for respect won't be as easy.

Senior Nick Roach and junior Adam Kadela are back at outside linebacker and middle linebacker. They had 77 and 71 stops, respectively, last year.

Northwestern's best player could be senior cornerback Marquice Cole, a second-team All-Big Ten choice who was second in the league with five interceptions. He was also a terrific punt returner at 27.0 yards per runback. And Cole's improvement in the spring didn't escape Walker's attention.

Senior Bryan Heinz and sophomore Brendan Smith are back at safety for a defense that yielded 6.2 yards per snap. They need to get better, as does senior kicker Joel Howells, who was just 11-for-21 on field goals.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@MIAMI (OH)	
S.9	New Hampshire	
S.16	Eastern Michigan	
S.22	@NEVADA	
S.30	@PENN STATE	29-34
O.7	@WISCONSIN	51-48
O.14	Purdue	34-29
O.21	**MICHIGAN STATE**	**49-14**
O.28	@MICHIGAN	17-33
N.4	@IOWA	28-27
N.11	Ohio State	7-48
N.18	Illinois	38-21

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Wildcats need to claw the Spartans again to claim a first-division spot.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/15

OFFENSE		
QB	18	C.J. Bachér (6-2, 200, So.)
RB	44	Erryn Cobb (6-1, 255, Sr.)
RB	19	Tyrell Sutton (5-9, 190, So.)
LT	74	Dylan Thiry (6-8, 315, Jr.)
LG	71	Joe Tripodi (6-3, 310, Sr.)
C	50	Trevor Rees (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RG	56	Ryan Keenan (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RT	62	Austin Matthews (6-5, 305, Jr.)
WR	84	Kim Thompson (6-4, 195, Jr.)
WR	3	Shaun Herbert (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	8	Ross Lane (6-3, 190, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Kevin Mims (6-3, 280, So.)
DT	79	Adam Hahn (6-4, 290, r-Fr.)
DT	70	John Gill (6-3, 290, So.)
DE	72	Mark Koehn (6-3, 270, Jr.)
SLB	42	Demetrius Eaton (6-2, 250, Sr.)
MLB	43	Adam Kadela (6-2, 245, Jr.)
WLB	38	Nick Roach (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LCB	20	Marquice Cole (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	10	Eric Peterman (6-1, 200, So.)
FS	39	Brendan Smith (6-1, 215, So.)
SS	21	Bryan Heinz (6-2, 215, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	93	Joel Howells (6-4, 225, Sr.)
P	15	Slade Larscheid (6-1, 210, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Nate Williams**, LB, 6-2, 220 *Pennsylvania defender ready to play.*
2	**Mike Boyle**, OL, 6-7, 270 *New Jersey athlete could play early.*
3	**Quentin Davie**, LB, 6-4, 200 *Rangy Missouri prospect has tools.*
4	**Carl Fisher**, WR, 6-1, 200 *Chicago-area product might surprise.*
5	**Justan Vaughn**, DB, 6-0, 175 *Texan could play immediately.*

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PRESEASON RANK:

#8

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
7-5	4-4

(lost to Virginia in the Music City Bowl, 34-31)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@KENT STATE	
S.9	@CALIFORNIA	
S.16	Temple	
S.23	@PURDUE	42-35 (OT)
S.30	**MICHIGAN**	**23-20**
O.7	Penn State	14-44
O.14	@WISCONSIN	34-38
O.21	North Dakota State	
O.28	@OHIO STATE	31-45
N.4	Indiana	42-21
N.11	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-18
N.18	Iowa	28-52

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Another win over the Wolverines would make stadium costs much more palatable.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 31/20

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Bryan Cupito (6-3, 205, r-Sr.)
FB	18	Justin Valentine (6-2, 230, r-Jr.)
TB	29	Amir Pinnix (6-0, 195, r-Jr.)
LT	64	Steve Shidell (6-5, 285, r-Jr.)
LG	56	Tyson Swaggert (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
C	77	Tony Brinkhaus (6-4, 300, r-Jr.)
RG	75	Otis Hudson (6-4, 290, r-Fr.)
RT	78	Joe Ainslie (6-7, 310, r-Sr.)
TE	89	Matt Spaeth (6-6, 270, r-Sr.)
WR	84	Logan Payne (6-2, 200, Sr.)
WR	82	Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 215, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	92	Steve Davis (6-2, 230, So.)
LT	70	Todd Meisel (6-4, 265, r-Jr.)
RT	90	Eric Clark (6-4, 265, r-Sr.)
RE	91	Willie VanDeSteeg (6-4, 250, r-So.)
OLB	46	John Shevlin (6-1, 225, Jr.)
MLB	58	Mike Sherels (6-0, 235, r-Jr.)
OLB	48	Mario Reese (6-3, 230, r-Sr.)
CB	9	Keith Massey (6-1, 200, r-Fr.)
CB	15	Jamal Harris (6-0, 185, r-Jr.)
FS	23	Dominique Barber (6-0, 200, Jr.)
SS	2	Dominic Jones (5-9, 180, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	31	Jason Giannini (5-9, 185, r-So.)
P	41	Justin Kucek (6-0, 200, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Gophers look to continue their winning ways without Maroney

After four straight seasons with seven or more wins, including three bowl victories, the Golden Gophers have gained our respect. They're 32-18 since 2002 and can conduct tours of Nashville after three trips to the Music City Bowl.

So why would Minnesota be picked eighth in the league? Because Wisconsin, Michigan State, Northwestern or the Gophers have to wind up there. And because a 2-4 finish last season, plus the loss of 10 starters, means another stiff challenge for Coach Glen Mason's staff.

His 2005 team had a 5-1 start, with improbable comebacks against Purdue and at Michigan, the first win over the Wolverines since 1986. But a blocked punt in the closing minute proved disastrous at home against Wisconsin. And a 34-31 loss to Virginia kept Minnesota from posting at least eight wins for the third time in four years.

The Gophers led the Big Ten in scoring at 35.8 points per game and, to no one's surprise, ranked No. 1 in rushing with a 273.1-yard average per game, 60 yards more than the next-best team. No wonder Minnesota punted a league-low 38 times, 23 fewer than Penn State.

Gone are Laurence Maroney—the conference's top rusher with 133.1 yards per game and a first-round NFL selection by New England—and Gary Russell, a perfect No. 2 back with a 6.1-yard average and 18 TDs. Together, they ran for 2,594 yards and were the Big Ten's version of Reggie Bush and LenDale White.

Since the Gophers became the first program in NCAA history to have two 1,000-yard rushers in three straight years, look for someone to burst onto the scene and into the secondary in 2006. The first shot will go to junior Amir Pinnix, who averaged 6.0 yards per carry and was the Big Ten's Offensive Player of the Week for a 206-yard day against Michigan State.

Complicating the issue is the departure of three starting offensive linemen, including All-America center Greg Eslinger and All-Big Ten guard Mark Setterstrom. Eslinger won the Outland Trophy and Rimington Award and was a sixth-round pick by Denver, a franchise that loves smart, mobile blockers. Setterstrom went to St. Louis in Round Seven.

Their absence is sure to be noticed by senior quarterback Bryan Cupito, who quietly finished fifth in Big Ten passing efficiency. He completed 59.3 percent of his throws for 2,530 yards and 19 scores. Cupito should improve on those stats this season.

Minnesota's top three receivers return, and Mason wouldn't trade his trio of junior wide receiver Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 215 pounds), senior wideout Logan Payne and senior tight end Mark Spaeth (6-6, 270). Wheelwright and Payne each had 37 catches, while Spaeth hauled in 26 receptions and was a first-team All-Big Ten pick.

Stadium: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (64,172)

Matt Spaeth, TE

When the Gophers were good on defense last year, they held Michigan to 249 yards and Michigan State to 18 points. When they were bad, they surrendered 1,152 yards and 96 points to Penn State and Iowa. To win eight or more games this year, consistency is critical.

With three starters gone from the defensive front, sophomore end Steve Davis is the lone returning regular. Davis had six sacks as a freshman.

The linebacking corps should be one of the league's best with juniors John Shevlin and Mike Sherels and senior Mario Reese. Shevlin had 74 tackles in 2005 and scored on a 60-yard interception return.

Free safety and leading tackler John Pawielski is gone from the secondary, but three starters return in senior cornerback Trumaine Banks, junior corner Jamal Harris and sophomore strong safety Dominic Jones. Banks is being tried at free safety this season.

Sophomore placekicker Jason Giannini was 13-for-19 on field goals last year. Sophomore punter Justin Kucek averaged 39.4 yards.

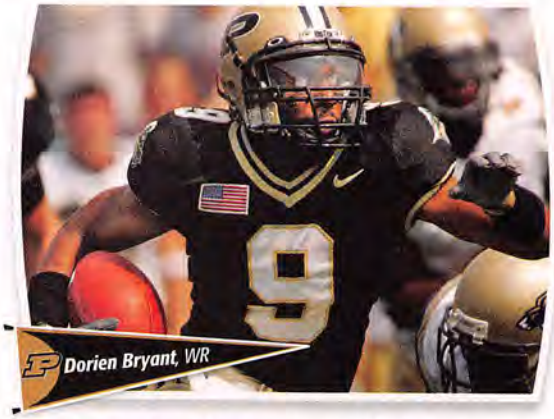
The Gophers will play three of their first four games on the road. Minnesota and Northwestern are the only teams in the league with six games at home and six on the road.

Head coach: Glen Mason, 10th year (58-50)
Career record: 117-114-1
Assistant coaches: Mitch Browning (asst. head coach/off. coord.), David Lockwood (def. coord./OLBs), Vic Adamle (RBs), Carey Bailey (def. line), Craig Bray (def. secondary), Mark Criner (LBs), Tony Petersen (passing game coord./QBs), Gordon Shaw (guards/centers), Luke Tressel (WRs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Sean McWhirter**, DE, 6-3, 245 *In-state defender has potential.*
2	**Brylee Callender**, RB, 6-0, 200 *Junior-college product will get a look at starting job.*
3	**Adam Weber**, QB, 6-3, 210 *He might be a year or two away.*
4	**Tommy Becker**, LB, 6-2, 230 *Good-sized defender who could contribute now.*
5	**Dominic Alford**, OL, 6-3, 305 *Stocky blocker might see playing time.*

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS



PRESEASON RANK:

#9

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big Ten:
5-6	3-5

Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Joe Tiller, 10th year (67-43)
Career record: 106-73-1
Assistant coaches: Mark Hagen (asst. head coach/def. tackles/special teams coord.), Bill Legg (co-off. coord./centers/guards), Brock Spack (def. coord./LBs), Ed Zaunbrecher (co-off. coord./QBs), Lou Anarumo (def. backs), John McDonell (off. tackles/TEs), Brian Rock (WRs), Joel Thomas (RBs), Terrell Williams (def. ends)

No hype for this group of Boilermakers, as Tiller looks to regroup after disappointing 2005 campaign

OK, the joke is on us—on all of us who built or bought the hype that last year's Boilermakers were ready for big things. Instead, they landed with a huge thud that echoed through late September and the entire month of October.

Eleventh in the polls after a pair of unimpressive wins, Purdue dropped six straight games, including crushers to Minnesota and Northwestern, and finished 5-6 overall and 3-5 in Big Ten play. It was the first losing record in Joe Tiller's nine-year tenure as coach and the first season without a bowl bid.

The Boilermakers' mind-numbing stats included 11th-place league rankings in passing efficiency, pass defense and red-zone defense. They were 10th in time of possession and penalty yards and ninth in five other categories.

Eleven starters are gone from that team, including seven defensive players. Purdue will have to replace last year's most-efficient passer, its top rusher, its leading tackler and interceptor, both kickers and five assistant coaches. Also gone is the heavy burden of great expectations.

For the fourth time in 10 seasons, the Boilermakers won't have to face Michigan or Ohio State—again this year, the best draw a team could have. But after opening with four straight home games, Purdue will play six of its last nine opponents away from Ross-Ade Stadium.

Where the Boilermakers play in 2006 isn't as important as who's doing the playing. Tiller thought he had all the players he needed last season, with a veteran quarterback and all 11 starters back on defense. Maybe a different approach and nametags will work.

After replacing Brandon Kirsch at quarterback with five games left, Curtis Painter did all Purdue could expect from a redshirt sophomore. He completed 52.4 percent of his passes for 932 yards and just three TDs, with five interceptions. Still, the offense seemed to run smoother with him at the controls, and the Boilermakers won their last three games.

Painter could make a quantum leap with four starters back on the offensive line, one of the league's best receivers and certainly its tallest target. If the offense doesn't deliver as planned, the Boilermakers could lose more than six times.

Center Matt Turner is gone, but senior tackle Mike Otto, junior tackle Sean Sester (6-8, 309 pounds) and junior guard Jordan Grimes should give Painter plenty of time. Purdue passers were sacked just nine times last year. And the center spot should be filled capably by senior Robbie Powell, who started all 11 games at guard.

Junior wideout Dorien Bryant had 80 catches and a league-high 7.3 grabs per game, including 16 receptions against Virginia. Against Notre Dame and Northwestern, he had more than 100 yards through the air and more than 100 on kickoff returns.

Bryant will be even better if 6-foot-9 senior wideout Kyle Ingraham approaches his potential. Before missing spring ball, Ingraham had 41 catches for just 500 yards and never found the end zone in 2005. And it won't hurt if a new tight end makes the fans forget Charles Davis, a fifth-round NFL pick by the Steelers.

Gone from the defense are strong safety Bernard Pollard, a second-round choice of Kansas City, and ends Ray Edwards and Rob Ninkovich, who went to Minnesota in Round Four and New Orleans in Round Five, respectively. Pollard led the Boilermakers with 92 tackles and three interceptions. And Ninkovich had eight sacks while starting just the last five games.

The lone returning starter on the defensive line is senior end Anthony Spencer. Back at linebacker are senior George Hall and junior Stanford Keglar. And the only starter returning in the secondary is junior Zach Logan.

Seniors Casey Welch and Jared Armstrong should take over the placekicking and punting, respectively. But Tiller knows the value of fresh faces. He welcomed five junior-college transfers and a high school player in January.

Tiller would also like to welcome back Drew Brees, Taylor Stubblefield, Rosevelt Colvin and Travis Dorsch. He knows that's not possible. The challenge is to groom a new group of stars before Purdue has another season to forget.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Indiana State	
S.9	Miami (OH)	
S.16	Ball State	
S.23	Minnesota	35-42 (2OT)
S.30	@NOTRE DAME	28-49
O.7	@IOWA	17-34
O.14	@NORTHWESTERN	29-34
O.21	Wisconsin	20-31
O.28	Penn State	15-33
N.4	@MICHIGAN STATE	28-21
N.11	@ILLINOIS	37-3
N.18	Indiana	41-14
N.25	@HAWAII	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Erasing the pain from last year's double-OT crusher is a key to first-division dreams.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/20

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Curtis Painter (6-4, 228, Jr.)
RB	24	Kory Sheets (6-0, 199, Jr.)
LT	65	Mike Otto (6-5, 304, Sr.)
LG	67	Uche Nwaneri (6-3, 300, Sr.)
C	68	Robbie Powell (6-5, 297, Sr.)
RG	66	Jordan Grimes (6-3, 334, Jr.)
RT	74	Sean Sester (6-8, 309, Jr.)
TE	28	Dustin Keller (6-4, 244, Sr.)
WR	20	Andre Chattams (6-0, 198, Sr.)
WR	9	Dorien Bryant (5-10, 175, Jr.)
WR	89	Kyle Ingraham (6-9, 228, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	45	Eugene Bright (6-4, 254, Sr.)
DT	90	Ryan Baker (6-6, 282, Jr.)
DT	71	Alex Magee (6-5, 275, So.)
DE	49	Anthony Spencer (6-3, 261, Sr.)
SLB	32	Cliff Avril (6-3, 240, Jr.)
MLB	30	George Hall (6-2, 243, Sr.)
WLB	36	Stanford Keglar (6-2, 240, Jr.)
CB	7	Brandon King (5-11, 184, So.)
CB	5	Zach Logan (5-11, 186, Jr.)
FS	19	Brandon Whittington (6-2, 206, Jr.)
SS	2	Torri Williams (6-2, 204, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	8	Casey Welch (5-9, 167, Sr.)
P	11	Jared Armstrong (6-3, 231, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Jeff Benjamin**, DL, 6-2, 260
One of 10 junior-college recruits.
2. **Selwyn Lymon**, WR, 6-4, 210
Size, speed make him special.
3. **Mike McDonald**, DE, 6-2, 250
Shows potential for playing time.
4. **Kyle Adams**, TE, 6-5, 235
Rangy Texan may make mark.
5. **Kyle Sheehan**, DL, 6-3, 245
Minnesota prep comes in highly touted.

BIG TEN

BLOOMINGTON

INDIANA
HOOSIERS

2005 Record: 4-7overall, **1-7 Big Ten**

PRESEASON RANK:
#10

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Terry Hoeppner, 2nd year (4-7)
Career record: 52-32
Stadium: Memorial Stadium
Capacity: 52,180
Official athletic Web site: www.iuhoosiers.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Western Michigan	
S.9	@BALL STATE	
S.16	Southern Illinois	
S.23	Connecticut	
S.30	WISCONSIN	24-41
O.7	@ILLINOIS	36-13
O.14	Iowa	21-38
O.21	@OHIO STATE	10-41
O.28	Michigan State	15-46
N.4	@MINNESOTA	21-42
N.11	Michigan	14-41
N.18	@PURDUE	14-41

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

A win at home in the Big Ten opener could propel the Hoosiers to a surprising 6-0 start.

Before the Big Ten's seven bowl games, the Hoosiers got a victory of their own. Their coach, Terry Hoeppner, underwent successful surgery to have a tumor removed from his right temple on Dec. 27 and should be 100 percent this season.

After a successful tenure at Miami of Ohio, Hoeppner's first Indiana team was 4-7 overall and 1-7 in the conference. The Hoosiers were last in the league in total offense at 350.8 yards per game and in penalty yards.

But there were bigger issues than instant efficiency. Home attendance was up 39 percent, including a 110-percent jump among students. If tradition has to start somewhere, Hoeppner more than did his part.

So did giant wide receiver James Hardy (6-7, 216 pounds), who debuted with 61 catches for 893 yards and 10 scores. He led the Big Ten with 89.3 yards receiving per game, including an 83-yard reception at Wisconsin, and could rewrite the Indiana record book.

Junior Blake Powers had a school-record 37 completions against Iowa, but was ninth in the league in passing efficiency with 56.4-percent accuracy, along with 209.5 yards per game, 22 TDs and a conference-high 16 interceptions.

The senior starters back on offense are center Chris Mangiero, guard Justin Frye, tight end Matt O'Neal and wideout Jahkeen Gilmore, who had 30 catches last year.

Sophomore Marcus Thigpen, who had 32 catches as a wideout, is now a running back. But the No. 1 ball-carrier will likely be a redshirt freshman: Demetrius McCray, Justin Carrington or Bryan Payton.

On defense, second-team All-Big Ten end Victor Adeyanju and outside linebacker Kyle Killion have graduated. Junior Charlie Emerson and sophomore Greg Brown are the key players back on the defensive line, but no linebackers with more than three college starts are returning.

The secondary returns intact, led by junior corner Tracy Porter, who had a 96-yard interception return in a win against Central Michigan that got the Hoosiers off to a 4-1 start.

Senior safeties Will Meyers and Troy Grosfield and junior corner Leslie Majors are solid but shouldn't have to be the top four tacklers. And Lance Bennett is dangerous on kickoff returns. Fewer attempts would help.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/17

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Blake Powers (6-4, 224, Jr.)
RB	22	Demetrius McCray (5-1, 189, Fr.)
LT	67	Kyle Thomas (6-4, 290, So.)
LG	50	Jonathan Sandberg (6-2, 290, Jr.)
C	74	Chris Mangiero (6-1, 305, Sr.)
RG	60	Justin Frye (6-5, 296, Sr.)
RT	79	Scott Anderson (6-6, 308, Sr.)
TE	83	Matt O'Neal (6-1, 229, Sr.)
WR	82	James Hardy (6-7, 216, So.)
WR	1	Jahkeen Gilmore (6-0, 211, Sr.)
WR	82	James Bailey (6-2, 199, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Kenny Kendal (6-3, 248, Sr.)
DT	62	Greg Brown (6-2, 303, So.)
DT	93	Charlie Emerson (6-5, 266, Jr.)
DE	52	Tyler Altman (6-0, 255, Jr.)
LB	51	Adam McClurg (6-0, 230, Jr.)
LB	46	Jake Powers (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	56	Geno Johnson (6-2, 204, So.)
LCB	9	Tracy Porter (5-10, 181, Jr.)
RCB	28	Leslie Majors (5-9, 159, Jr.)
FS	39	Will Meyers (5-11, 201, Sr.)
SS	5	Troy Grosfield (6-0, 182, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Joe Kleinsmith (5-11, 167, So.)
P	44	Tyson Beattie (6-1, 204, Sr.)

CHAMPAIGN

ILLINOIS
FIGHTING ILLINI

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **0-8 Big Ten**

PRESEASON RANK:
#11

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Ron Zook, 2nd year (2-9)
Career record: 25-23
Stadium: Memorial Stadium
Capacity: 69,249
Official athletic Web site: www.fightingillini.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Eastern Illinois	
S.9	@RUTGERS	33-30 (OT)
S.16	Syracuse	
S.23	Iowa	7-35
S.30	@MICHIGAN STATE	14-61
O.7	Indiana	13-36
O.14	Ohio	
O.21	@PENN STATE	10-63
O.28	@WISCONSIN	24-41
N.4	Ohio State	2-40
N.11	PURDUE	3-37
N.18	@NORTHWESTERN	21-38

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

A late-season matchup with a beatable neighbor should show if progress is being made.

Ron Zook brought his orange-and-blue wardrobe but couldn't bring Florida's players when he showed up in Champaign last season. The result was a predictable 2-9 overall record and 0-8 in Big Ten play.

It wasn't just that the Fighting Illini finished with nine straight losses. Their fight disappeared, as they were outscored 386-114 from Sept. 17 on, never coming closer than 15 points.

The good news is that Illinois will have 10 starters back on offense and 10 more on defense. The bad news is that those players were last in the league in 10 categories, including points per game (17.0), points allowed per game (39.5), passing offense (196.5 yards per game), rushing defense (234.0) and turnover margin (minus-11).

Senior quarterback Tim Brasic helped the Illini rally from 20 down for an overtime win against Rutgers. But he was 10th in the league in passing efficiency with 61.1-percent accuracy, along with 218.1 yards per game, 11 TDs and 11 interceptions.

The entire offensive line returns and must improve dramatically. Tackle Akim Millington (6-6, 300 pounds), an Oklahoma transfer, should help a team that scored 14 or fewer points six times.

If the line holds up and the passing is adequate, seniors Pierre Thomas and E.B. Halsey and sophomore Rashard Mendenhall should be a solid corps of running backs. Thomas and Halsey teamed for 1,013 yards on the ground and 66 catches.

The other receiver with more than 21 grabs was wideout Kyle Hudson, who had 31 catches as a lightly recruited freshman, including seven of more than 30 yards.

Junior tackle Chris Norwell (6-6, 290) is the most experienced defensive lineman returning. End Derek Walker was one of the nation's top freshmen in 2005. And he couldn't ask the linebackers for much help, with the top five contributors there being either freshmen or sophomores.

If there is a strength on a defense that allowed 124 points against Michigan State and Penn State, it would have to be the secondary. Junior strong safety Kevin Mitchell led Illinois with 78 stops, while junior free safety Justin Harrison had 63 in eight games.

No Illini player had more than one interception last year. Takeaways will be essential this season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/16

OFFENSE		
QB	15	Tim Brasic (6-2, 200, Sr.)
FB	41	Russ Weil (6-0, 240, Jr.)
RB	30	Pierre Thomas (5-11, 210, Sr.)
LT	69	Akim Millington (6-6, 310, Jr.)
LG	64	Martin O'Donnell (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	67	Matt Maddox (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	79	James Ryan (6-5, 315, Jr.)
RT	60	Ryan McDonald (6-5, 300, So.)
TE	81	Will Davis (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	8	DaJuan Warren (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	21	Kyle Hudson (5-11, 165, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	56	Sirod Williams (6-0, 270, So.)
DT	65	Josh Norris (5-11, 270, Sr.)
DT	96	Chris Norwell (6-6, 290, Jr.)
DE	91	Derek Walker (6-4, 270, So.)
LB	43	Sam Carson III (6-1, 245, So.)
LB	44	Brit Miller (6-1, 245, So.)
LB	47	J Leman (6-2, 240, Jr.)
CB	18	Alan Ball (6-1, 175, Sr.)
CB	22	Sharriff Abdullah (5-8, 170, Sr.)
SS	42	Kevin Mitchell (6-0, 200, Jr.)
FS	32	Justin Harrison (5-11, 220, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	13	Jason Reda (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	37	Kyle Yelton (6-0, 180, Fr.)

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Jordy Nelson,** Kansas State	*Most elusive RB*	**Adrian Peterson,** Oklahoma	*Top NFL prospect*	**Adrian Peterson,** RB Oklahoma
Best hands	**Chase Coffman,** TE, Missouri	*Best instincts*	**Corey McKeon,** LB, Nebraska	*Top impact freshman*	**Sergio Kindle,** LB, Texas
Best passing QB	**Bret Meyer,** Iowa State	*Best athlete*	**Hugh Charles,** RB, Colorado	*Hardest hitter*	**Jordon Dizon,** LB, Colorado
Best running QB	**Stephen McGee,** Texas A&M	*Best under pressure*	**Mason Crosby,** K, Colorado	*Biggest underachiever*	**Stevie Hicks,** RB, Iowa State

Predicted order of finish:

NORTH

1. Huskers — p. 61 — STOCK: UP
2. Iowa State Cyclones — p. 63 — STOCK: STEADY
3. Missouri — p. 65 — STOCK: STEADY
4. KU — p. 66 — STOCK: STEADY
5. CU — p. 67 — STOCK: DOWN
6. Kansas State — p. 67 — STOCK: STEADY

SOUTH

1. Texas — p. 68 — STOCK: DOWN
2. OU — p. 70 — STOCK: UP
3. Texas Tech — p. 72 — STOCK: STEADY
4. A&M — p. 73 — STOCK: STEADY
5. Baylor — p. 74 — STOCK: UP
6. Oklahoma State — p. 74 — STOCK: UP

Young's departure for NFL leaves door at top ajar for Sooners, Huskers

By **BLAIR KERKHOFF**
The Kansas City Star

Texas lost Young and got young at quarterback in one day, and the balance of power in the Big 12 may shift because of it.

When Vince Young said he was headed to the NFL after his junior season—a lucrative move considering he was the third selection—Texas went from preseason No. 1 to somewhere else.

The Longhorns remain the Big 12 favorite, but only barely over an Oklahoma team that should field one of the nation's top defensive units. This season, the Sooners have the advantage at quarterback now that Rhett Bomar has a year under his belt.

Texas Coach Mack Brown went into fall workouts not knowing whether his quarterback would be redshirt freshman Colt McCoy or freshman Jevan Snead.

Texas-Oklahoma, Oklahoma-Texas. Same story, different year, unless Texas Tech can pull off a gadget play and sneak by both. The Red Raiders get a little better every year, and one more step of improvement means a division title.

Up North, Nebraska hasn't won a division title since 1999. That streak should end this year. The perception of the Cornhuskers changed in their last two games, a resounding victory at division-champ Colorado and a triumph over favored Michigan in the Alamo Bowl.

No team has experienced more bad luck over the past two seasons than Iowa State, which has lost a spot in the Big 12 Championship Game on the final play of the regular season in each of the past two seasons. The Bret Meyer-to-Todd Blythe battery will be among the nation's best, but the Cyclones must overcome a difficult schedule to challenge for the division.

Dan Hawkins, the Boise State magician, arrives at Colorado and Ron Prince, the former Virginia offensive coordinator, was the surprise hire at Kansas State. The Buffs are looking for a quarterback; the Wildcats have too many.

On the improvement front, check out Baylor, which has installed a Texas Tech-like spread offense. The Bears were one victory away from a bowl game last season, their best in the Big 12 decade.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Bret Meyer, Jr., Iowa State	DL	Larry Birdine, Sr., Oklahoma
RB	Adrian Peterson, Jr., Oklahoma	DL	Adam Carriker, Jr., Nebraska
RB	Jon Cornish, Sr., Kansas	DL	Tim Crowder, Sr., Texas
OL	Mark Fenton, Sr., Colorado	DL	C.J. Ah You, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Manuel Ramirez, Sr., Texas Tech	LB	Jordon Dizon, Jr., Colorado
OL	Aaron Brant, Sr., Iowa State	LB	Rufus Alexander, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Justin Blalock, Sr., Texas	LB	Corey McKeon, Jr., Nebraska
OL	Adam Spieker, Jr., Missouri	DB	Michael Griffin, Sr., Texas
WR	Todd Blythe, Jr., Iowa State	DB	Cortney Grixby, Jr., Nebraska
WR	Joel Filani, Sr., Texas Tech	DB	Reggie Smith, So., Oklahoma
WR	Jarrett Hicks, Sr., Texas Tech	DB	Aqib Talib, So., Kansas
PK	Mason Crosby, Sr., Colorado	P	Daniel Sepulveda, Sr., Baylor

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **How does Texas replace Vince Young?** It doesn't. Young's talent and his leadership carried the Longhorns to a national championship, and although Young didn't win the Heisman, he stood at the end of the season as college football's MVP. Colt McCoy or Jevan Snead can't be expected to be anything like that. The leadership has to come from elsewhere.
2. **Is it possible for Missouri and Texas A&M to improve after losing quarterbacks who finished as school-record-holders for total offense?** Yes. Brad Smith and Reggie McNeal were tremendous talents and both were taken in the NFL Draft. Now the Tigers and Aggies will establish playmakers at other positions. Look for Missouri tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman and A&M's human bowling ball, Jorvorskie Lane, to become stars.
3. **Can Iowa State get over the hump and win a division?** It's possible, and the good news is Iowa State has division-favorite Nebraska at home. The bad news is the Cyclones get the bad end of cross-division scheduling with Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech on the slate.
4. **Oklahoma can't possibly lose four games again, can it?** Ask the offensive line. That's the key for the Sooners. Everything else seems in place, starting with an amazing defense, Heisman-quality running back in Adrian Peterson and a year-older quarterback in Rhett Bomar. If the line is great, Oklahoma will be.
5. **Which is a greater unknown, Colorado or Kansas State?** Winners of the last six North Division titles may be battling to stay out of the basement. Give Colorado the edge in the standings because of the sideline experience of Colorado's Dan Hawkins and his staff. But Ron Prince has generated a lot of excitement in Manhattan.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

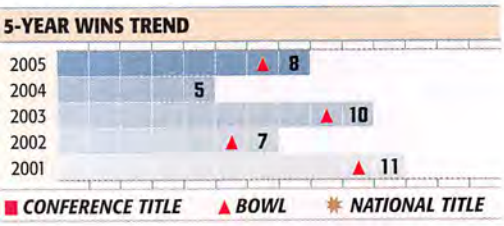
1. **TEXAS:** Jevan Snead enters QB battle immediately.
2. **OKLAHOMA:** Nation's top DT, Gerald McCoy, makes a great line better.
3. **NEBRASKA:** Huskers grab DB Andre Jones from Pac-10 country.
4. **OKLAHOMA STATE:** Pokes' haul was talk of Big 12 recruiting circles.
5. **TEXAS TECH:** Spread offense starting to attract top talent.
6. **TEXAS A&M:** Aggies will find room for RB Mike Goodson.
7. **KANSAS:** In-state product Jake Sharp can fly.
8. **KANSAS STATE:** Eleven jucos in Ron Prince's first class mean depth.
9. **MISSOURI:** Wideout Jeremy Maclin will take advantage of more throwing.
10. **COLORADO:** Respectable class for late-starting Dan Hawkins and staff.
11. **IOWA STATE:** Always ranked low in Big 12, always going to bowl games.
12. **BAYLOR:** We'll see if the new offense attracts top skill players.

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 25 SELECTION

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (73,918)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Husker Nation could be back with a vengeance, as Nebraska looks to be easy favorite in Big 12 North

Nov. 12, 2005, Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb. More specific? A 40-yard field-goal attempt by freshman Jordon Congdon with Nebraska trailing Kansas State 25-24 and 1:05 remaining.

Not much was on the line, except perhaps Bill Callahan's future as the Cornhuskers' coach and the direction of the program.

The Huskers entered the next-to-last game of the regular season with five victories and were favored to grab the magic, bowl-qualifying sixth triumph against the fading Wildcats.

Nebraska needed this one desperately. A year removed from having a three-decade bowl streak end, the Huskers had shown considerable improvement in 2005. But without a winning record and postseason berth to show for it, Callahan and the man who hired him, Athletic Director Steve Pederson, might have been on their way out.

A loss would have left Nebraska 5-5 with a trip on deck to Colorado, which would win the division.

Nobody could know that the Huskers would travel to Boulder and slap the Buffaloes, or that the program would pull off its most feel-good triumph in years in the Alamo Bowl over Michigan.

All anybody knew was that Congdon needed to make this field goal.

Done.

And now Nebraska marches into 2006 feeling chipper about things. That kick, those victories over Colorado and Michigan and a nice spring practice capped by 57,000 fans at the final scrimmage have left the glass half-full.

Bring on Southern Cal ... and Texas. Both NCAA finalists face the Big Red this year.

Not that Nebraska is expecting a return to the glory days of a decade or so ago, but this team really should be just as good, if not better, than last year's 8-4 bunch.

For starters, this season marks the first time since Eric Crouch's Heisman Trophy-winning season that the Huskers return their quarterback and offensive coordinator in tandem.

And if you don't think that's important, here's what quarterback Zac Taylor had to say about his first few months on campus last year after transferring from junior college: "You almost didn't know where to start with reading the playbook. It's really tough until you get coaches in the room with you or get on the practice field doing it live."

Turned out, Taylor gave Nebraska one of the grittiest seasons ever authored by a Big Red quarterback. It wasn't the school-record 2,653 passing yards or the three-game turnaround from the previous season, impressive as those accomplishments were.

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
8-4	4-4

(beat Michigan in the Alamo Bowl, 32-28)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Louisiana Tech	
S.9	Nicholls State	
S.16	@USC	
S.23	Troy	
S.30	Kansas	15-40
O.7	@IOWA STATE	27-20 (OT)
O.14	@KANSAS STATE	27-25
O.21	Texas	
O.28	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
N.4	Missouri	24-41
N.11	@TEXAS A&M	
N.24	Colorado	30-3

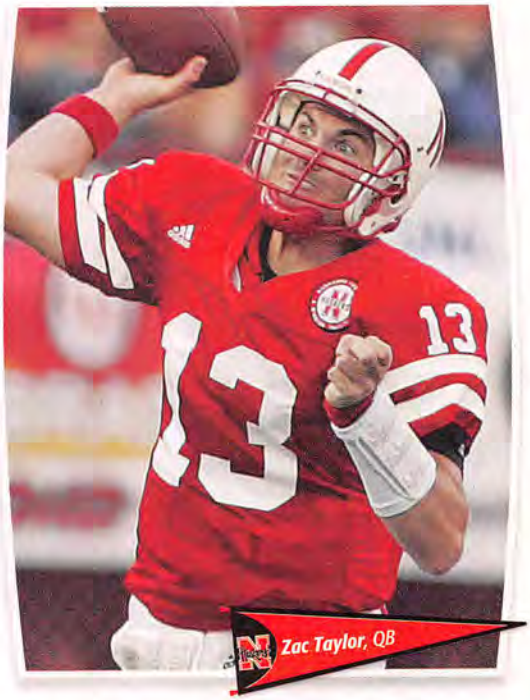
★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Sure, the Huskers play at USC before then, but the division title is the goal, and this one will go a long way in determining it.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/24

OFFENSE		
QB	13	Zac Taylor (6-2, 210, Sr.)
RB	34	Cody Glenn (6-0, 230, So.)
FB	41	Dane Todd (5-10, 235, Sr.)
LT	54	Chris Patrick (6-4, 285, Jr.)
LG	62	Andy Christensen (6-3, 300, So.)
C	50	Kurt Mann (6-4, 270, Sr.)
RG	65	Greg Austin (6-1, 290, Sr.)
RT	70	Matt Slauson (6-5, 340, So.)
TE	11	Matt Herian (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	83	Terrence Nunn (6-0, 185, Jr.)
WR	87	Nate Swift (6-2, 195, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	90	Adam Carriker (6-6, 280, Sr.)
DT	54	Ola Dagunduro (6-2, 290, Sr.)
DT	94	Barry Cryer (6-2, 275, Sr.)
DE	44	Jay Moore (6-4, 270, Sr.)
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley (6-4, 240, Sr.)
MLB	13	Corey McKeon (6-1, 225, Jr.)
WLB	15	Steve Octavien (6-0, 235, Jr.)
CB	2	Cortney Grixby (5-9, 165, Jr.)
CB	1	Zackary Bowman (6-2, 190, Sr.)
FS	30	Tierre Green (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SS	8	Andrew Shanle (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	29	Jordan Congdon (5-11, 180, So.)
P	97	Dan Titchener (6-0, 195, So.)



Taylor, guiding a West Coast offense with an inexperienced offensive line, absorbed more punishment than two quarterbacks should be allowed. He rarely got to see any of his pass completions, but he did watch plenty of clouds pass over the stadium—when he wasn't seeing stars.

Yet, Taylor missed only a handful of snaps—toward the end of the Kansas State game after suffering a concussion.

"We've got to do a better job protecting him," Callahan says.

Taylor was sacked 38 times last season, and that was only one of Nebraska's problems on offense. The Huskers finished 107th nationally in rushing and 96th for total offense. It's worth noting that Nebraska went for 497 yards against Colorado and 318 (including 161 on the ground) against Michigan.

The Huskers have talented I-backs in Marlon Lucky and Cody Glenn, who had a terrific spring. Wideouts Nate Swift and Terrence Nunn combined for 88 receptions, and a big bonus will be the return

Head coach: Bill Callahan, 3rd year (13-10)
Career record: 13-10
Assistant coaches: Kevin Cosgrove (def. coord./LBs), Jay Norvell (off. coord./QBs), John Blake (def. line), Bill Busch (safeties/special teams coord.), Phil Elmassian (CBs), Ted Gilmore (WRs), Randy Jordan (RBs), Dennis Wagner (off. line), Shawn Watson (TEs/recruiting coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**D.J. Jones**, OL, 6-5, 300 *Massive blocker top prep recruit.*
2	**Steven Allen**, LB, 6-2, 230 *One of nine junior-college signees.*
3	**Corey Young**, DB, 6-0, 190 *In-state prospect has cover skills.*
4	**Pierre Allen**, DE, 6-5, 222 *Colorado product could contribute.*
5	**Andre Jones**, DB, 6-0, 195 *Fresno, Calif., athlete given five stars by Rivals.com.*

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP
SCORING	296	252
Points Per Game	24.7	21.0
FIRST DOWNS	221	217
Rushing	71	85
Passing	124	111
Penalty	26	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	1152	1491
Yards gained rushing	1551	2055
Yards lost rushing	399	564
Rushing Attempts	420	459
Average Per Rush	2.7	3.2
Average Per Game	96.0	124.2
TDs Rushing	10	14
PASSING YARDAGE	2692	2495
Att-Comp-Int	444-239-13	415-212-13
Average Per Pass	6.1	6.0
Average Per Catch	11.3	11.8
Average Per Game	224.3	207.9
TDs Passing	20	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	3844	3986
Total Plays	864	874
Average Per Play	4.4	4.6
Average Per Game	320.3	332.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-611	47-862
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	50-647	31-273
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-187	13-209
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.7	18.3
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	12.9	8.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	14.4	16.1
FUMBLES-LOST	27-11	31-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	89-693	85-719
Average Per Game	57.8	59.9
PUNTS-YARDS	72-3302	80-3425
Average Per Punt	45.9	42.8
Net punt average	39.8	33.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:56	30:04
3RD-DOWN CONV.	60/182	56/191
3rd-Down Pct	33%	29%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/19	13/21
4th-Down Pct	37%	62%
SACKS BY-YARDS	50-381	38-253
MISC YARDS	142	5
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	34	30
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	19-23	13-25
PAT-ATTEMPTS	31-32	27-29
ATTENDANCE	542397	208079
Games/Avg Per Game	7/77485	4/52020
Neutral Site Games		1/62000

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Nebraska	49	98	67	68	14	296
Opponent	72	53	63	57	7	252

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Zac Taylor

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	115.94	430-237-12	55.1	2653	19	221.1

Harrison Beck

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	7.64	10-1-1	10.0	21	0	10.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Cory Ross	12	225	882	3.9	5	73.5
Cody Glenn	7	45	131	2.9	4	18.7
Marlon Lucky	12	43	129	3.0	0	10.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Nate Swift	12	45	641	14.2	7	53.4
Terrence Nunn	12	43	495	11.5	7	41.2
Cory Ross	12	43	392	9.1	3	32.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Corey McKeon	12	61	37	98
Dan Bullocks	12	46	37	83
Bo Ruud	12	41	39	80

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Adam Carriker	12	9.5	84
Corey McKeon	12	7.0	51
Barry Turner	12	6.0	46

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Corey McKeon	3	57	19.0	1
Zackary Bowman	2	0	0.0	0
Stewart Bradley	1	43	43.0	1

of tight end Matt Herian. He'll be back for the first time after breaking his leg against Missouri two years ago.

But the line holds the key to improvement. Three players who started late last season—tackles Matt Slauson, Chris Patrick and Lydon Murtha—now have experience. The Huskers got through spring without center Kurt Mann, who was recovering from shoulder surgery. Greg Austin, who started at left guard, took the snaps.

The group has to be better if Nebraska is to win the division.

One thing's for sure: The line had trouble with the defensive front in spring. Nebraska's front seven, including the three linebackers, are the team's strength.

Corey McKeon enjoyed a breakout season at middle linebacker, leading the team with 98 tackles and 22 tackles for loss. Flanking him are Bo Ruud and Stewart Bradley.

The linebacking group also includes Steve Octavien, who had won the starting job last August only to suffer a broke leg in the opener. Octavien and Ruud, who was held out of contact drills in the spring to recover from a broken arm, will battle for the start this fall. Both should see plenty of action.

Also in the mix is Lance Brandenburgh, who had an outstanding Alamo Bowl in his only start.

The Huskers are set at end with Adam Carriker and Jay Moore as starters and Barry Turner, coming off a terrific freshman season, providing the rotation.

Tackle is set for fresh faces with the departure of LeKevin Smith and Titus Adams. The slots are up for grabs among Ola Dagunduro, Barry Cryer, Ty Steinkuhler and Ndamukong Suh, a 6-4, 315-pound nose tackle who wowed coaches with his physical ability during the offseason.

The Huskers lost a good strong safety in Daniel Bullocks, but the corners are set with returning starters Cortney Grixby and Zack Bowman, who replaced Teirre Green at midseason. Green moved to safety, where he could start.

One of the biggest replacement chores is finding a successor to punter Sam Koch. The Big 12 has produced All-Americans over the past two seasons in Baylor's Daniel Sepulveda and Colorado's John Torp, but Koch finished with a better average than both of them last year, leading the league with a 46.5-yard average.

The job is so wide open that an Omaha high school soccer player, Alex Henery, passed up a soccer scholarship to Creighton to give punting at Nebraska a shot.

The return game is in good shape and was one of the more improved areas for the Huskers last season. Nunn led the Big 12 in punt returns with an 18.3-yard average. Lucky averaged nearly 21 yards per kickoff return, and the Huskers may have found another candidate in the spring game when reserve cornerback Titus Brothers returned a kick 100 yards for a touchdown.

As for placekicking, Congdon was terrific, making 19 of 23 field goals and hitting 31 straight extra points after missing his first one. Besides, this was the kicker who saved a season and perhaps a career or two with one pressure boot. Nebraska is in good shape here, and in many other places. The Huskers should be good enough to end a seven-year drought and represent the North in the Big 12 Championship Game.

NEXT BIG THING

MARLON LUCKY, sophomore running back

Marlon Lucky could have stayed close to home and possibly become USC's next feature back. Instead, he chose to travel to the Midwest and help rebuild a once-dominant college football program.

And after playing sparingly in his freshman year at Nebraska, this could be the season Lucky shows why he was rated by several publications as the No. 2 overall running back of the 2004 national recruiting class.

Lucky was a top tailback at North Hollywood High, where he had 4,881 yards and 81 touchdowns in three seasons. He had scholarship offers from both the Trojans and Washington, but made just one official visit—more than 1,500 miles away, to Lincoln. Soon after that trip, he committed to Nebraska.

"I'm not really an L.A. boy," Lucky told *The Lincoln Journal-Star* when he signed with the Cornhuskers last May.

Lucky was on the field little last season, but was the team's leading kick returner, averaging 20.5 yards an attempt. He also rushed for 129 yards and averaged 3.0 yards a carry.

With 2005 leading rusher Cory Ross now graduated, the starting tailback slot will be either Lucky or fellow sophomore Cody Glenn. But no matter who's in for the first play of the game, both tailbacks will get numerous reps all season in Coach Bill Callahan's intricate West Coast offense.

The Cornhuskers' newest "Thunder and Lightning" duo shined in Nebraska's spring game, but it was Lucky who led the team with two rushing touchdowns. He carried the ball 15 times for 84 yards, while Glenn had 16 carries for 98 yards.

"We featured more of a draw scheme with Marlon," Callahan says. "He has good vision, great vision. We used a counter game with Marlon as well."

—Matt McKenzie

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲	7
2004	▲	7
2003		2
2002	▲	7
2001	▲	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
7-5	4-4

(lost to TCU in the Houston Bowl, 27-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Toledo	
S.9	UNLV	
S.16	@IOWA	23-3
S.23	@TEXAS	
S.30	Northern Iowa	
O.7	Nebraska	20-27 (OT)
O.14	@OKLAHOMA	
O.21	Texas Tech	
O.28	@KANSAS STATE	45-17
N.4	Kansas	21-24 (OT)
N.11	@COLORADO	30-16
N.18	Missouri	24-27 (OT)

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

There are plenty of high-profile games early for the Cyclones, but this is the most meaningful. Last year's victory over the Hawkeyes was one of the most satisfying in Dan McCarney's tenure.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 28/21

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Bret Meyer (6-3, 208, r-Jr.)
IB	27	Stevie Hicks (6-1, 212, r-Sr.)
FB	31	Ryan Kock (6-1, 239, r-Sr.)
LT	69	Scott Fisher (6-7, 335, r-Sr.)
LG	70	Tom Schmeling (6-3, 290, r-So.)
C	63	Scott Stephenson (6-4, 305, r-Sr.)
RG	77	Paul Fisher (6-7, 325, r-Sr.)
RT	75	Aaron Brant (6-7, 320, Sr.)
TE	41	Ben Barkema (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
WR	8	Austin Flynn (6-1, 200, r-Sr.)
WR	1	Todd Blythe (6-5, 210, r-Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	47	Kurtis Taylor (6-3, 250, Jr.)
NG	93	Bryce Braaksma (6-4, 260, r-Jr.)
DT	52	Brent Curvey (6-0, 305, Sr.)
RUS	40	Shawn Moorehead (6-4, 250, r-Sr.)
SLB	17	Tyrone McKenzie (6-2, 230, r-So.)
MLB	10	Adam Carper (6-3, 225, r-So.)
WLB	15	Alvin Bowen (6-4, 220, r-Jr.)
CB	4	DeAndre Jackson (6-0, 192, r-Sr.)
CB	18	Chris Singleton (5-10, 191, So.)
FS	16	Jon Banks (6-3, 217, r-Jr.)
SS	2	James Smith (5-8, 191, r-Fr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	37	Bret Culbertson (6-6, 179, Jr.)
P	49	Michael Brandtner (6-1, 198, r-Fr.)

Led by QB Meyer, Cyclones' offense will throw caution to the wind in North

The first time was bad enough. When it happened again, Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney had to wonder if the college football gods were punishing him.

For the last two years, the Cyclones have been denied a chance to play in the Big 12 Championship Game because they lost games on the final play of the final day of the regular season.

Think about that. A team is on the field for, what, 2,000 or so snaps in a season, and in each of the last two years Iowa State lost a huge prize because of the last one.

There's no comparing the hurt because both were devastating, but the one in 2004 may have tortured the soul a little more. On that day, the Cyclones were playing underdog Missouri in Ames, missed a short field goal that could have won it in regulation and went for a touchdown pass that would have won it in overtime. But the ball was picked off in the end zone.

Iowa State would have won the North Division outright with a victory that day.

Last year, the game was at Kansas and the Jayhawks were fighting to become bowl-eligible. But the Cyclones led by a touchdown with less than two minutes remaining when Kansas forced the extra period and Iowa State missed a long field-goal try in overtime.

The Jayhawks made their kick and down went Iowa State. For the second year in a row, Colorado clinched the division championship while watching the Cyclones lose on television.

"Rarely in life do you get second opportunities like this," McCarney mulled afterwards. "Sometimes you wait 10, 15, 20 or 30 years for a second opportunity like we got."

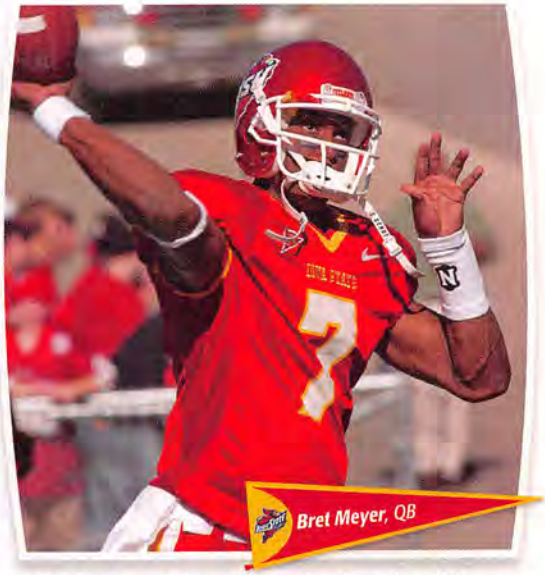
But mostly because of an offense that should be the best in the Big 12 North, Iowa State may not have to wait at all for another chance at a division title.

Few outside of Ames picked the Cyclones to be as successful as they've been over the past two seasons. This year is different. Iowa State enters this fall with some expectations.

It's been a while since anything less than a bowl game and a challenge for the division will be viewed as a disappointment. But after playing in five bowl games over the past six years and coming this close to the top, that's where Iowa State stands.

"I would be very disappointed if we were not in the thick of the race for first [in the division]," McCarney says. "I want this program on such a firm foundation that we can continue to make a run at the Big 12 North championship every year, which means you're making a run at the Big 12 championship.

Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium (45,814)



Bret Meyer, QB

"We've come a long way and we've taken this program to place where it's never been. Yet there's a lot of places where we can improve."

More on the defense later.

The Cyclones will compete because they can move the chains and score with anybody in the North Division. Quarterback Bret Meyer is a junior who will be a third-year starter. By the time he's finished, he should hold all of ISU's career passing records. He already stands fourth in career passing yards.

Meyer's 2,867 throwing yards last season were the second best ever by an Iowa State quarterback. He completed 61.7 percent of his passes and tossed 19 touchdowns to 10 interceptions.

"Bret has accomplished a lot," McCarney says. "Now he has a better grasp of the big picture and a greater understanding of what we're trying to do. He has a chance to have a memorable career at Iowa State."

Iowa State's previous full-time starting quarterbacks—Seneca Wallace and Sage Rosenfels—are in the NFL. Meyer, with a strong arm and the ability to throw on the run, could be next.

Meyer's targets are some of the best in the Big 12. Todd Blythe, a 6-5 junior, came in with Meyer and they've been playing catch ever since. Blythe caught 51 passes for a 19.6-yard average and nine

Head coach: Dan McCarney, 12th year (52-77)
Career record: 52-77
Assistant coaches: Tony Alford (asst. head coach/RBs), Terry Allen (assoc. head coach/TEs), Barney Cotton (off. coord./off. line), John Skladany (def. coord./LBs), Chris Ash (secondary), DeMontie Cross (OLBs), Todd Fitch (QBs), Mike Grant (WRs), Mike Nelson (def. line), Brian Schneider (TEs/special teams coord.), Shawn Simms (OLBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Austen Arnaud**, 6-2, 205 *In-state prospect has big upside.*
2	**Zac Sandvig**, DB, 5-11, 180 *Touted prep athlete needs a position.*
3	**Matt Hulbert**, OL, 6-6, 280 *Rangy blocker is a solid in-state prospect.*
4	**Derron Montgomery**, WR, 6-1, 175 *Texas product should contribute.*
5	**John Richardson**, LB, 6-1, 245 *Another Lone Star State import.*

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	IOWA STATE	OPP
SCORING	339	230
Points Per Game	28.2	19.2
FIRST DOWNS	230	229
Rushing	83	75
Passing	124	140
Penalty	23	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	1328	1232
Yards gained rushing	1687	1577
Yards lost rushing	359	345
Rushing Attempts	491	414
Average Per Rush	2.7	3.0
Average Per Game	110.7	102.7
TDs Rushing	20	10
PASSING YARDAGE	2876	2908
Att-Comp-Int	368-227-10	446-256-22
Average Per Pass	7.8	6.5
Average Per Catch	12.7	11.4
Average Per Game	239.7	242.3
TDs Passing	19	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4204	4140
Total Plays	859	860
Average Per Play	4.9	4.8
Average Per Game	350.3	345.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-725	32-626
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-223	29-340
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-239	10-154
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	23.4	19.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.6	11.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.9	15.4
FUMBLES-LOST	15-11	22-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	64-567	94-787
Average Per Game	47.2	65.6
PUNTS-YARDS	70-2901	65-2570
Average Per Punt	41.4	39.5
Net punt average	36.6	36.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:40	28:20
3RD-DOWN CONV.	69/181	62/181
3rd-Down Pct	38%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/13	10/21
4th-Down Pct	69%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	27-182	39-243
MISC YARDS	66	105
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	42	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-20	18-22
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-41	22-23
ATTENDANCE	280232	286454
Games/Avg Per Game	6/46705	5/57291
Neutral Site Games		1/37286

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Iowa State	66	86	86	94	7	339
Opponent	76	37	40	57	20	230

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Bret Meyer

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	138.94	368-227-10	61.7	2876	19	239.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Stevie Hicks	9	149	545	3.7	4	60.6
Greg Coleman	10	116	419	3.6	2	41.9
Ryan Kock	12	54	129	2.4	13	10.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Austin Flynn	12	56	624	11.1	3	52.0
Todd Blythe	12	51	1000	19.6	9	83.3
Jon Davis	12	41	319	7.8	2	26.6

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Matt Robertson	12	47	56	103
Tim Dobbins	12	48	55	103
Jason Berryman	12	38	34	72

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Jason Berryman	12	7.5	42
Brent Curvey	12	6.5	54
Shawn Moorehead	12	5.5	39

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
DeAndre Jackson	5	18	3.6	0
LaMarcus Hicks	5	44	8.8	1
Nik Moser	4	19	4.8	0

touchdowns last season. Blythe has great hops and a knack for winning the jump balls, but he needs to work on his blocking skills to become a complete player.

Blythe got off to a slow start last year, but came on strong and was named NCAA Player of the Week after eight receptions for 214 yards and four touchdowns at Texas A&M.

McCarney never tires of telling the story of the Cyclones' top receiver, Austin Flynn. He came to the program as a quarterback, the position he'd played his whole life.

But after a freshman season in which he and ISU struggled to an 0-8 league finish, McCarney told Flynn he could battle the freshman Meyer the next season. Flynn accepted the challenge, and lost.

"Coach said the thinking was Bret would give our team the best opportunity to win, and we're going with him until he proves us wrong," Flynn recalls. "I had a few decisions to make, but what it came down to is I wanted to be part of this team."

To wide receiver he went, a position Flynn had never played. So what happens? He catches 56 balls to become the team's top receiver.

That's how you become a coach's favorite.

"His unselfishness, his work ethic, his leadership, heart, character, toughness to start at that position and excel at it like he did makes him the ultimate yard dog and he's a coach's dream," McCarney says of Flynn.

If only Iowa State could feel as good about its running game. Through the lean years of McCarney's tenure, the Cyclones could always be counted on for a 1,000-yard rusher—even a 2,000-yard back in Troy Davis.

Last year, Stevie Hicks led the team with 545 yards after topping 1,000 the previous year. He carried a nagging groin injury with him most of the season, and his value was reflected in the Cyclones' 6-2 record when Hicks started.

But the overall production wasn't there. Iowa State finished 96th nationally in rushing offense.

Hicks is back and so is fullback Ryan Kock, who collected 129 yards on 54 attempts for a paltry 2.4 average. Except, many of his carries came on third-and-short or goal-line situations and Kock powered into the end zone 13 times.

The Cyclones' offensive line will be the most experienced in the Big 12. Iowa State could start five seniors, including 6-7, 320-pound Aaron Brant. He's started 33 career games. Center Scott Stephenson, one of the league's best, was held out of spring scrimmages while recovering from shoulder surgery.

Defense is the Cyclones' concern. Last year's unit was the best in McCarney's 11 seasons at Ames. The group led the nation in turnover margin and topped the Big 12 with 22 interceptions.

Iowa State will build up front around tackle Brent Curvey, a 305-pound gap-filler, and end Shawn Moorehead, a former walk-on who has become a talented pass rusher.

Curvey and Moorhead are the only returning starters on defense after two others—tackle Jason Berryman and linebacker Matt Robertson—were kicked off the team. Berryman, already given a second chance by the program, violated team rules and was tossed. Robertson was dismissed for testing positive for a banned nutritional supplement.

That left spring practice wide-open for position battles and one player stepping up was James Smith at strong safety. He's only 5-8, but his speed and aggressive play won over the staff.

Other positions won in the spring: Tyrone McKenzie, a transfer from Michigan State, claimed one linebacking spot, while Adam Carper, a sophomore, holds down another.

Last year, the Cyclones won defensive battles. This year they may have to win shootouts.

NEXT BIG THING

BRET MEYER, junior quarterback

He may not be known nationally yet, but mention the name of Bret Meyer around the Big 12 and opposing defensive coordinators know they are in for a long afternoon.

Meyer is coming off a season in which he threw for 2,876 yards with 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Going into his junior season, Meyer has 5,256 yards of total offense. That's a better career mark than any Cyclone player other than current NFL player Seneca Wallace (6,201). If Meyer can stay healthy the next two seasons, he will shatter Wallace's numbers.

Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney knows that if the Cyclones are going to contend in the Big 12 North this season, they will be led by their offense. The defense is rebuilding. McCarney has a difficult time containing himself when it comes to discussing Meyer.

"He was just so much better as a sophomore than he was as a freshman," McCarney says. "We don't have to be satisfied with that improvement. If he can improve that much his freshman to sophomore year, why not do that from his sophomore to junior year and then next year from his junior to senior season? I know that he can get even better and I believe that he will because of his pride, work ethic and accountability as a leader on this football team."

Meyer is not the kind of quarterback who can scare opposing defenses with his running ability—he averaged 0.9 yards per carry a year ago. However, he has the ability to escape the first wave of the pass rush and buy time with his feet. That allows him to find open receivers in the late stages of plays.

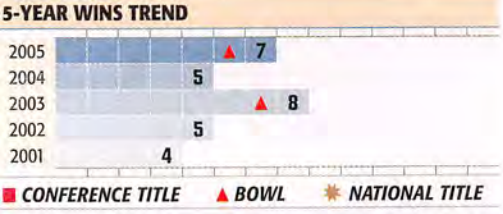
"[Bret] is just a great student of the game now," McCarney says. "He has a grasp of the big picture. Once you see that switch go on in a quarterback—when they really have an understanding—they get that look in their eye, and I have seen it with Bret."

If McCarney sees it again this season, the Cyclones may find themselves at the top of the Big 12 North.

—Steve Silverman

MISSOURI TIGERS

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
7-5	4-4

(beat South Carolina in the Independence Bowl, 38-31)

With Mr. Smith gone to the NFL, Tigers plan to spread offense around

No more BS for Missouri football, as in Brad Smith.

The most productive player in school history has moved on and he couldn't have scripted a better ending. The Tigers erased a 21-point deficit to South Carolina to win the Independence Bowl, sending Smith out a winner.

The challenge for Missouri is how to redistribute Smith's production. After all, Smith rolled up 13,088 total yards and became the first player in Division I-A history to pass for 8,000 yards and rush for 4,000 in a career.

"Our next quarterback will be more of a distributor," Tigers Coach Gary Pinkel says. "We'll get the ball in other people's hands more."

There appears to be plenty of good hands people for Missouri, starting with the tight ends. No program in the country may have a better set than Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman, who have each been named Freshman All-Americans.

Rucker has been the starter and was the Tigers' big-play receiver with a team-leading 12.1-yard average on 47 receptions last year.

The number of catches matched Coffman for the team lead. Coffman's four touchdowns also tied for the team high. Both have good hands, especially Coffman, and don't be surprised to see them both on the field at the same time with one lining up wide.

The Tigers lost an all-time Mizzou top-10 wide receiver in Sean Coffey, but have Will Franklin and Brad Ekwerekwu back. The duo combined for 72 receptions and six touchdowns last season. The third receiver will be Tommy Saunders, a former walk-on who has impressed coaches with his work ethic and delivered one of the signature plays of last season, a diving catch for the first touchdown against Nebraska.

It could be a breakout year at tailback, but which one? The top four ground-gainers at the position are back, including juniors Marcus Woods and Tony Temple, who combined for 912 yards and six touchdowns. Woods' 93 attempts led the tailback group, but that was 136 chances fewer than Smith.

Now you know the tight ends, wide receivers and running backs who should be getting more attempts. Who will be getting less? Quarterback Chase Daniel. But this is not a bad thing.

Daniel is ready for the role. Pinkel called him the best-prepared freshman he had coached last season, and Daniel proved his value throughout the season in relief appearances. He appeared in 10 games and completed 57.6 percent of his throws for 347 yards and a touchdown.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Murray State	
S.9	Mississippi	
S.16	@NEW MEXICO	35-45
S.23	Ohio	
S.30	Colorado	12-41
O.7	@TEXAS TECH	
O.14	@TEXAS A&M	
O.21	Kansas State	28-36
O.28	Oklahoma	
N.4	@NEBRASKA	41-24
N.18	@IOWA STATE	27-24 (OT)
N.25	Kansas	3-13

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Tigers' chances for the division title could be determined in Lincoln, where Missouri hasn't won since 1978.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/19

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Chase Daniel (6-1, 220, So.)
TB	20	Marcus Woods (5-8, 195, Jr.)
LT	79	Tyler Luellen (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	71	Monte Wyrick (6-5, 320, Jr.)
C	77	Adam Spieker (6-2, 310, Jr.)
RG	55	Mike Cook (6-2, 315, Sr.)
RT	74	Joel Clinger (6-6, 315, Sr.)
TE	82	Martin Rucker (6-5, 245, Jr.)
WR	3	Will Franklin (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	86	Brad Ekwerekwu (6-4, 215, Sr.)
WR	84	Tommy Saunders (6-0, 210, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	39	Brian Smith (6-4, 230, Sr.)
DT	99	Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 285, Jr.)
NT	92	Jamar Smith (6-1, 280, Sr.)
DE	38	Stryker Sulak (6-4, 245, So.)
SLB	15	Marcus Bacon (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	33	Dedrick Harrington (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WLB	5	Van Alexander (6-0, 230, So.)
CB	11	Darnell Terrell (6-2, 195, Jr.)
CB	2	Domonique Johnson (6-2, 190, So.)
FS	8	David Overstreet (6-0, 210, Sr.)
SS	19	Brandon Massey (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	90	Adam Crossett (6-3, 225, Jr.)
P	90	Adam Crossett (6-3, 225, Jr.)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349)

One appearance stood out. The Tigers trailed by 10 when Smith went to the sideline in the fourth quarter against Iowa State. In came Daniel, who completed 16 of 23 passes for 185 yards and a score to force overtime in a Missouri victory.

Without the triumph, the Tigers wouldn't have become bowl-eligible.

Daniel and reserve quarterbacks Brad Coleman, a senior, and Chase Patton (sophomore) should benefit from an experienced offensive line. However, the only loss, All-Big 12 guard Tony Palmer, is a big one.

But back are four players who started at least 11 games, including center Adam Spieker. Also returning are tackles Joel Clinger and Tyler Luellen and guard Mike Cook. Monte Wyrick, a 320-pound junior, is slated to replace Palmer.

Prospects are strong for Missouri's best defense in Pinkel's six seasons. The line returns nearly intact. End Brian Smith already holds the school record for career sacks with 24, and he led the team with 17 tackles for loss last season.

At the other end, freshman Stryker Sulak, finished a season that Xzavie Jackson started. Sulak had four sacks, Jackson six. In the middle, Lorenzo Williams and Jamar Smith combined for nine sacks.

The big loss at linebacker is Derrick Ming, but middle 'backer Dedrick Harrington and strong-side man Marcus Bacon give the Tigers plenty of experienced talent. Van Alexander gets first crack at Ming's weakside position.

The secondary is where Missouri has its greatest rebuilding task. Three starters are gone, with strong safety David Overstreet moving to free. Look for Brandon Massey to shift into Overstreet's old spot, while several candidates are gunning for the corner spots.

Junior Adam Crossett handled all of the Tigers' kicking duties last season and finished the season with a exclamation point, booming a 50-yard field goal and averaging 45.8 yards per punt in the Independence Bowl.

Head coach: Gary Pinkel, 6th year (29-30)
Career record: 102-67-3
Assistant coaches: Dave Christensen (asst. head coach/off. coord./off. line), Matt Eberflus (def. coord./safeties), Cornell Ford (CBs), Andy Hill (WRs), Brian Jones (RBs), Craig Kuligowski (def. line), Dave Steckel (LBs), Bruce Walker (TEs/asst. off. line), David Yost (QBs/recruiting coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Castine Bridges**, DB, 6-2, 195 *Best of seven junior-college signees.*
2	**Tim Barnes**, OL, 6-4, 310 *Solid blocker who could play early.*
3	**Cornelius Brown**, DB, 6-0, 200 *Fills need for secondary help.*
4	**Marquis Booker**, LB, 6-1, 235 *Oklahoma product from top prep program.*
5	**Jeremy Maclin**, WR, 6-1, 185 *Touted prep receiver with skills.*

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
7-5	3-5

(beat Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl, 42-13)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Northwestern State	
S.9	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.15	@TOLEDO	
S.23	South Florida	
S.30	@NEBRASKA	40-15
O.7	Texas A&M	
O.14	Oklahoma State	
O.21	@BAYLOR	
O.28	Colorado	13-44
N.4	@IOWA STATE	24-21 (OT)
N.18	Kansas State	3-12
N.25	@MISSOURI	13-3

GAME TO WATCH

The game moves back to the end of the schedule where it belongs. A bowl game could be on the line for both teams.

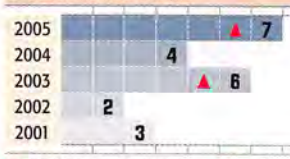
PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/19

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Kerry Meier (6-3, 210, r-Fr.)
RB	29	Jon Cornish (6-0, 205, r-Sr.)
FB	35	B. McAnderson (6-0, 235, r-Jr.)
LT	65	Cesar Rodriguez (6-7, 286, r-Jr.)
LG	77	Bob Whitaker (6-5, 317, r-Sr.)
C	74	David Ochoa (6-4, 285, r-Sr.)
RG	50	Ryan Cantrell (6-3, 285, r-So.)
RT	78	Anthony Collins (6-6, 285, r-So.)
TE	85	Derek Fine (6-3, 245, r-Jr.)
WR	86	Marcus Henry (6-4, 200, Jr.)
WR	6	Brian Murph (6-1, 190, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Rodney Allen (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	91	Wayne Wilder (6-3, 295, Sr.)
DT	93	James McClinton (6-1, 283, Jr.)
DE	98	Paul Como (6-2, 248, Sr.)
OLB	37	Joe Mortensen (6-2, 245, r-So.)
MLB	40	Mike Rivera (6-3, 250, r-So.)
OLB	12	James Holt (6-3, 200, So.)
CB	3	Aqib Talib (6-2, 180, r-So.)
CB	23	Blake Bueltel (6-0, 175, Jr.)
FS	25	Darrell Stuckey (6-1, 183, r-Fr.)
SS	24	Jerome Kemp (5-10, 200, r-Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Scott Webb (5-11, 180, Jr.)
P	15	Kyle Tucker (6-2, 205, Jr.)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (50,071)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mark Mangino, 5th year (19-29)
Career record: 19-29
Assistant coaches: Nick Quartaro (assoc. head coach/off. coord./QBs), Bill Young (def. coord./def. line), Brandon Blaney (recruiting coord./TEs), Clint Bowen (co-def. coord./safeties), Earnest Collins (special teams coord./CBs), Mike Mallory (LBs), Earle Mosley (RBs), John Reagan (off. line/run game coord.), Tim Beck (WRs)

Big 12 brother act makes stop in Lawrence, where new QB Meier should be the main attraction

Get through the middle of the schedule, and let's see what happens.

That was the sense entering Kansas' 2005 season, when the Jayhawks were looking at four games away from Lawrence against chief rivals or division favorites. Kansas dropped them all, but the team came through in good spirits.

Victories in three of the final four regular-season games, including a first triumph over Nebraska since 1968, sent the Jayhawks bowling for the second time in three years, and now Kansas finds itself in a good place.

This team can become the first in program history to follow a bowl season with a bowl season.

Even with a new starting quarterback and eight new defensive starters?

Yes, Coach Mark Mangino insists.

The Jayhawks found answers in the spring. Kerry Meier was so impressive at quarterback that Mangino saw no reason to create any confusion entering fall camp when he named him the starter.

Meier, a redshirt freshman, got the nod over senior Adam Barmann, who may end up taking some snaps at tight end.

"You can see his poise," Mangino says of Meier. "We have a lot of work to do, but I really like where we are with him."

Meier is the younger brother of Kansas State quarterback Dylan Meier, who's fighting for a starting job with the Wildcats. Shad Meier, a tight end who wrapped up his K-State career in 2000, is beginning his sixth NFL season.

Kerry Meier picked Kansas to forge a separate identity, and he'll get that chance after an impressive spring. In the final scrimmage, Meier went 16-for-28 for 184 yards and three touchdowns.

One of the surprises of spring was the play of reserve quarterback Todd Reesing, who may have worked his way into the top backup spot at QB. Reesing, a freshman, put up good numbers against the first-team defense.

The running game will be in the able hands of Jon Cornish, who could be the breakout running back in the Big 12. Cornish led the Jayhawks in rushing with 780 yards and was named the team's offensive MVP. His 72-yard touchdown run against Nebraska served as the game's highlight play, and he turned shovel passes into two touchdowns against Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl victory.

Nearly all the wide receivers return, led by Brian Murph, who caught 33 passes for 368 yards and two touchdowns. Murph also may get more looks as a return specialist after going 85 yards on a punt against Houston, his only return attempt of the season.

Marcus Henry (17 catches, 183 yards) and former quarterback Marcus Herford have big-play ability.

Three full-time starters, led by center David Ochoa, two part-time starters and a handful of other letter-winners return on the line, as well as tight ends Derek Fine and Russell Brorson.

The offense can't help but be better. The Jayhawks struggled mightily at times last year, at one point going nearly 10 quarters without a touchdown. But starting with the 40-point outburst against the Cornhuskers, Kansas began to find an offensive stride that Mangino hopes carries into this year.

Defense saved the Jayhawks in 2005. The linebacking trio of Nick Reid, Kevin Kane and Banks Floodman were among the nation's best. So was defensive end Charlton Keith. They all helped Kansas rank third nationally against the run.

The three returning starters have all-conference ability and cornerback Aqib Talib should be one of the best players in the Big 12. Senior Jerome Kemp is back at strong safety, and freshman free safety Darrell Stuckey earned a starting spot with an impressive spring.

Mangino doesn't believe the Jayhawks will drop much at linebacker. Middle linebacker Mike Rivera played in all 12 games last season and was one of the team's better special-teams players. With excellent springs, Joe Mortensen and James Holt earned starting spots.

Junior tackle James McClinton is the lone returning starter up front, and he'll be joined by senior ends Rodney Allen and Paul Como and senior tackle Wayne Wilder.

Placekicker Scott Webb and punter Kyle Tucker return to their jobs, giving the Jayhawks reliability in the kicking game.

It adds up to optimism in Lawrence, which usually isn't the case when Kansas tries to build some momentum after a bowl season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Rameses Arceo**, OL,6-4, 295 *Touted junior-college line prospect.*
2	**Phillip Strozier**, DB, 6-0, 190 *Solid athlete from top state program.*
3	**Sal Capra**, LB, 6-3, 245 *In-state prep product has potential.*
4	**Xavier Rambo**, WR, 6-0, 185 *Honed skills in competitive Texas prep ranks.*
5	**Tertavian Ingram**, WR, 6-0, 181 *Athletic wideout from Florida.*

BOULDER

COLORADO BUFFALOES

2005 Record: 7-6 overall, **5-3 Big 12**
(lost to Clemson in the Champs Sports Bowl, 19-10)

The parachute opened, and Dan Hawkins lived to coach Colorado for another day in the spring.

Skydiving "isn't something I aspire to do every day," Hawkins says. "That was something of a gut-check."

Which is where Colorado is today. Winning the North Division four of the last five years wasn't good enough for Gary Barnett to keep his job. The Buffs were drilled by Texas in the league title game and Barnett had become a polarizing figure in an athletic department rocked by scandal.

Enter Hawkins, who went 53-10 with four WAC titles in five seasons at Boise State, and his different ways. One day, he had players slide on their bellies in the snow to determine whether the offense or defense would run sprints. Another day he ordered up a seven-on-seven passing drill, only with linemen in the skill positions and skill players on the line.

"I want them to come out with a sense of wonderment," Hawkins says.

Now the wonder is how "Hawk Ball" will translate in Big 12 play. Steady quarterback Joel Klatt has moved on and the position is the team's biggest question mark. Juniors Bernard Jackson and Brian White or senior James Cox will get the call.

Hugh Charles looks for another big year after rushing for 1,089 yards as a sophomore. The play of senior running back Mell Holliday in the spring adds depth to the position.

Dusty Sprague, who caught 44 passes last season, leads the receiver group. But the Buffs will miss a pair of tight ends taken in the NFL Draft, Joe Klopfenstein and Quinn Sypniewski. Center Mark Fenton returns as an All-Big 12 choice.

Linebackers Thaddeus Washington and Jordon Dizon are two of the league's best. Brad Jones will step in for Brian Iwuh on the strongside. A strong secondary, led by safety J.J. Billingsley, will be even better if corner Gerett Burl, suspended twice in the spring, returns.

The best thing Colorado has going for it is kicker Mason Crosby, who's made a 60-yarder in a game. When Crosby announced he was returning for his senior season, Hawkins called it his first big signing coup.

"I figured I was part of the program when there were problems, and I can be part of a fresh start and make sure everybody knows this is a good place," Crosby says.

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲7
2004	▲7
2003	5
2002	▲9
2001	■▲10

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✱ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Dan Hawkins, 1st year
Career record: 53-10
Stadium: Folsom Field
Capacity: 53,750
Official athletic Web site: www.cubuffs.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Montana State	
S.9	@COLORADO ST.*	31-28
S.16	Arizona State	
S.23	@GEORGIA	
S.30	@MISSOURI	41-12
O.7	Baylor	
O.14	Texas Tech	
O.21	@OKLAHOMA	
O.28	@KANSAS	44-13
N.4	Kansas State	23-20
N.11	Iowa State	16-30
N.24	@NEBRASKA	3-30

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

It's become one of those new great rivalries and Hawkins can solidify his popularity with a victory.

* *at Denver*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Bernard Jackson (6-0, 195, Jr.)
TB	2	Hugh Charles (5-8, 185, Jr.)
FB	42	S. Jagoras (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LT	76	Edwin Harrison (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	66	Brian Daniels (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	58	Mark Fenton (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG	75	Daniel Sanders (6-3, 300, So.)
RT	60	Paul Backowski (6-6, 285, r-Fr.)
TE	48	Tyson DeVree (6-6, 245, Jr.)
WR	1	S. Robinson (5-9, 185, Jr.)
WR	83	Dusty Sprague (6-4, 190, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	33	W. Boye-Doe (6-2, 245, Sr.)
DT	86	George Hypolite (6-2, 265, So.)
NT	94	Brandon Nicolas (6-3, 270, So.)
DE	53	Abraham Wright (6-3, 240, Sr.)
SLB	40	Brad Jones (6-4, 220, So.)
MLB	49	T. Washington (5-11, 240, Sr.)
WLB	44	Jordon Dizon (6-0, 220, Jr.)
CB	26	T. Wheatley (5-10, 175, Jr.)
CB	6	Gardner McKay (5-11, 160, So.)
FS	5	J.J. Billingsley (5-11, 185, Sr.)
SS	15	Ryan Walters (5-11, 200, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	16	Mason Crosby (6-2, 210, Sr.)
P	14	Matt DiLallo (6-1, 190, r-Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

MANHATTAN

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **2-6 Big 12**

As far as handoffs go, this exchange could not have been smoother.

Former Virginia Offensive Coordinator Ron Prince, who took the program over from Bill Snyder in the offseason, has won over the K-State Nation. That's no small achievement, considering Snyder was so respected the stadium was renamed Bill Snyder Family Stadium within days of his retirement and Prince, even in Kansas, was largely unknown outside of his hometown of Junction City, a few miles from Manhattan.

Fans flocked to Prince's speaking engagements. The spring game lured a record 31,000 spectators.

Beyond the hoopla lies a rebuilding task. It's been a cruel two seasons for the Wildcats after enjoying the greatest moment in program history, the triumph over top-ranked Oklahoma for the 2003 Big 12 championship.

Since then, two last-place finishes. K-State hadn't been there since Snyder's early Big Eight days.

The rebound effort will be built around 20 returning starters and one of the most unique quarterback situations in the nation.

Sophomore Allan Evridge and seniors Allen Webb and Dylan Meier have 22 career starts among them, and all have been effective at different times. But the quarterback of the future figures to be freshman Josh Freeman, who backed out of his commitment to Nebraska to sign with the Wildcats.

When Freeman takes over is the question. The other three are proven in Division I—Evridge and Webb each have had big rushing games against Nebraska.

Meier, who sat out last season recovering from shoulder surgery, has thrown for more than 200 yards in a game four times, and wound up having the best performance in the spring game. Kansas State will attack with a low-risk, short-passing-game offense.

Whoever gets the call will be surrounded by plenty of returning veterans. Leading rusher Thomas Clayton (637 yards), top wide receivers Jordy Nelson (45 receptions) and Jermaine Moreira (35) and four offensive-line starters return.

Senior linebacker Brandon Archer has led the Wildcats in tackles each of the last two years. Free safety Marcus Watts leads a solid secondary.

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	4
2003	■▲11
2002	▲11
2001	▲6

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✱ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Ron Prince, 1st year
Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site: www.k-statesports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Illinois State	
S.9	Florida Atlantic	
S. 16	Marshall	21-19
S.23	Louisville	
S.30	@BAYLOR	
O.7	Oklahoma State	
O.14	Nebraska	25-27
O.21	@MISSOURI	36-28
O.28	Iowa State	17-45
N.4	@COLORADO	20-23
N.11	Texas	
N.18	@KANSAS	12-3

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

So much is unknown about these Wildcats. Marshall comes to Manhattan believing it should have won last year's meeting in Huntington.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/20

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Allan Evridge (6-1, 210, So.)
RB	5	Thomas Clayton (6-0, 220, Sr.)
FB	30	R. McNeese (6-2, 240, Sr.
LT	73	Gerard Spexarth (6-7, 290, So.)
LG	71	Derek Meyer (6-6, 290, r-Fr.)
C	79	Jordan Bedore (6-3, 275, So.)
RG	75	Matt Boss (6-4, 310, So.)
RT	67	Greg Wafford (6-2, 305, Sr.)
TE	89	R. Norwood (6-5, 240, Jr.)
WR	27	Jordy Nelson (6-3, 210, Jr.)
WR	10	J. Moreira (5-11, 190, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	34	Blake Seiler (6-3, 245, Sr.)
DT	56	Quinton Echols (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DT	50	A. Moran (6-1, 290, So.)
DE	98	Ian Campbell (6-4, 240, So.)
SLB	46	Brandon Archer (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	52	Zach Diles (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	24	Maurice Mack (6-0, 215, Sr.)
CB	3	Bryan Baldwin (5-11, 185, Jr.)
CB	22	Justin McKinney (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	2	Marcus Watts (6-2, 180, Jr.)
SS	9	Kyle Williams (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	19	Jeff Snodgrass (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	17	Tim Reyer (6-0, 195, Jr.)

TEXAS LONGHORNS

Jamaal Charles, RB

BIG 12 SOUTH

Mack's Longhorns reload with talent galore, but irreplaceable Vince Young will be sorely missed

Have you noticed the "good-things-come-to-those-who-wait" trend in sports? North Carolina basketball Coach Roy Williams won his first national title in season 17. Steelers Coach Bill Cowher was in his 14th year before getting a Super Bowl ring.

Even franchises like the Red Sox and White Sox finally flew title flags over their stadiums. Programs' and organizations' patience was rewarded.

So it was with Texas last season. Decades of college football frustration in Austin, and some personal demons of Coach Mack Brown, spilled out at the Rose Bowl in January when the Longhorns finally cashed in.

Texas is no longer the national power that hasn't won it in a while. The Longhorns are the defending champions, and Brown played the next few months as if he had spent his entire career preparing for the moment.

"Our guys didn't come out of the national championship complacent," Brown says. "We went right back to work. We had our toughest and most physical spring since I've been here."

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Sergio Kindle**, LB, 6-4, 225 *Nation's top defender heads 'Horn class.*
2	**Eddie Jones**, DE, 6-3, 240 *Pass rusher was early Longhorn commit.*
3	**J'Marcus Webb**, OL, 6-8, 280 *Has an NFL body made for blocking.*
4	**Lamarr Houston**, DE, 6-2, 257 *Prep LB/FB is a natural down lineman.*
5	**Brian Ellis**, DE, 6-5, 250 *Could emerge as a top pass rusher.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
13-0	8-0

(beat USC in the Rose Bowl, 41-38)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	North Texas	
S. 9	Ohio State	25-22
S.16	@RICE*	51-10
S.23	Iowa State	
S.30	Sam Houston State	
O.7	@OKLAHOMA**	45-12
O.14	Baylor	62-0
O.21	@NEBRASKA	
O.28	@TEXAS TECH	52-17
N.4	Oklahoma State	47-28
N.11	@KANSAS STATE	
N.24	Texas A&M	40-29

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Texas' early victory at Columbus last fall inspired the Longhorns' title run.

** at Houston **at Dallas*

PROJECTED STARTERS

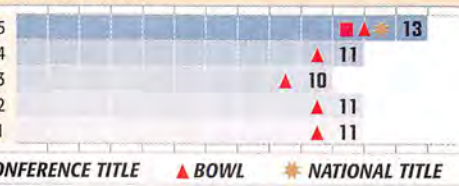
Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Colt McCoy (6-3, 195, r-Fr.)
TB	25	Jamaal Charles (6-1, 190, So.)
LT	79	Tony Hills (6-6, 295, Jr.)
LG	64	Kasey Studdard (6-3, 305, Sr.)
C	62	Lyle Sendlein (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RG	55	Cedric Dockery (6-4, 315, So.)
RT	63	Justin Blalock (6-4, 329, Sr.)
TE	16	Jermichael Finley (6-5, 220, r-Fr.)
SE	4	Limas Sweed (6-5, 219, Jr.)
FL	6	Quan Cosby (5-11, 200, So.)
WR	5	Billy Pittman (6-0, 198, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	80	Tim Crowder (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	97	Frank Okam (6-5, 315, Jr.)
DT	96	Derek Lokey (6-2, 275, Jr.)
DE	39	Brian Robison (6-3, 275, Sr.)
LB	4	Drew Kelson (6-2, 215, Jr.)
LB	40	Robert Killebrew (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB	44	Rashad Bobino (5-11, 230, So.)
CB	5	Tarell Brown (6-0, 200, Sr.)
CB	31	Aaron Ross (6-1, 192, Sr.)
FS	27	Michael Griffin (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS	26	Marcus Griffin (6-0, 195, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	97	Greg Johnson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
P	97	Greg Johnson (6-1, 195, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (80,082)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mack Brown, 9th year (83-19)
Career record: 169-93-1
Assistant coaches: Greg Davis (off. coord./QBs), Gene Chizik (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs), Duane Akina (co-def. coord./def. backs), Bruce Chambers (recruiting coord./TEs), Oscar Giles (def. ends), Bobby Kennedy (asst. recruiting coord./WRs), Mac McWhorter (assoc. head coach/off. line), Ken Rucker (RBs), Mike Tolleson (def. tackles/special teams coord.)

Brown says he was influenced by something he read about former Kentucky basketball Coach Rick Pitino. When the Wildcats won the 1996 national championship, he called a staff meeting for 7 a.m. the next morning.

There is plenty of work for Brown and his staff, starting with identifying a successor to quarterback Vince Young, who made the strongest case yet for waiting until after the bowl games to vote for the Heisman Trophy.

But before carrying on with the business of defending a championship, Brown deserves his moment in the sun. He had won enough to get a contract that essentially makes him the Texas coach for life, but he had never won as much as a conference championship, had lost five straight to Oklahoma and had to talk his way into a BCS bowl two seasons ago.

In one perfect year, all the marks were erased.

Texas blew out the Sooners. The conference championship was so emphatic, 70-3 over Colorado, that it cost Buffaloes Coach Gary Barnett his job. The thrill ride of the final bowl game punctuated the year.

Young's talent cannot be duplicated by anybody in burnt orange or anyone else in college football, for that matter. It wasn't the numbers, although they were terrific: team-best 1,050 yards rushing and 12 rushing touchdowns to go along with 65.2-percent passing and 26 TD throws.

Young's ability to prevent losing may be unequaled in the game's history. In Texas' 20-game winning streak, Young personally rallied the Longhorns from double-digit deficits in the second half three times, none more impressively than his last collegiate escape. Down by 12 to Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl with 6:42 left, Young guided two touchdown drives for the 41-38 triumph. He scored the game-winner on a fourth-down keeper.

And either Colt McCoy or Jevan Snead is supposed to follow that?

"We're planning on playing both of them unless one separates himself," Brown says.

McCoy sat out last year as a redshirt freshman. Snead, who originally committed to Florida, finished high school a semester early to enroll. The idea will be to keep as much pressure off of either or both, and let the more-veteran talent become the offensive features.

And there is talent throughout the rest of the offense. All of the running backs return, led by Jamaal Charles, named the league's top offensive freshman after rushing for 878 yards. Ramonce Taylor (513 yards), Selvin Young (461) and Henrley Melton (432) got nearly all the attempts not taken by Vince Young.

The wide receivers, led by Limas Sweed (36 receptions) and Billy Pittman (34), are back, but the big loss is tight end David Thomas, who caught 10 passes in the Rose Bowl. Redshirt freshman Jermichael Finley had an excellent spring.

Tackle Justin Blalock, center Lyle Sendlein and guard Kasey Studdard are the foundation for one of the nation's top offensive lines. Brown said in the spring that he'll consider moving his experienced players—like allowing Blalock to play some guard—to take advantage of their versatility.

Back to the quarterbacks. Texas fans may get queasy at the idea of both playing, as hinted by Offensive Coordinator Greg Davis during the spring. "I think there's a chance," he said. "It depends on how they continue to play in game situations."

The old double-quarterback trick. It never really caught on in Austin. There was Major Applewhite and Chris Simms. Then Vince Young and Chance Mock. Some who bleed burnt orange would never admit it today, but a strong faction wanted Young moved to receiver to allow Mock time to develop.

"People love playing two quarterbacks around here," Brown jokes.

McCoy threw 116 touchdown passes at Jim Ned High, good for No. 2 in Texas prep history. Last season, he ran the scout team and occasionally took snaps with the second-team offense.

Snead was a high school All-American who led Stephenville (Texas) High to the state semifinals last season. Now one of them has to replace a quarterback who went 30-2 as a starter and joins the likes of Bobby Layne, Earl Campbell and Ricky Williams as Longhorn legends.

Young had thought about returning for his senior year, and even told some friends during last season that it was his intention. But he's the classic example of striking while the iron's hot, and he was never going to be hotter than after his second Rose Bowl triumph.

"We know there's inexperience at quarterback," Brown says. "But the talent is there."

Texas lost some star power on defense, namely Michael Huff and Cedric Griffin in the secondary, tackle Rod Wright and linebacker Aaron Harris. All of them were first-team All-Big 12 selections.

But Texas is a program that reloads and three all-league players—ends Tim Crowder and Brian Robison and safety Michael Griffin—head up a stellar group.

Tackle Frank Okam, linebacker Robert Killebrew and cornerback Tarell Brown return, and so does Rashad Bobino, a Freshman All-America linebacker.

Who steps in? Junior Derek Lokey and sophomore Roy Miller lead at tackles. They each played at least 10 games last season. Michael Griffin's twin brother, Marcus, goes to safety.

A real concern is the kicking game. David Pino, who won the previous year's Rose Bowl with a last-second field goal, and punter Richmond McGee are gone, as is dependable deep snapper Nick Schroeder.

Greg Johnson, who handled Texas' kickoffs last season, figures to do the placekicking and the punting this year. The left-footer was a Freshman All-American at Vanderbilt in 2002.

Texas is set in most areas. Quarterback is the big concern, but if McCoy or Snead develops quickly this season, look for the Longhorns to repeat as league champions and return to the BCS.

NEXT BIG THING

JERMICHAEL FINLEY, redshirt freshman tight end

Not only did Texas lose do-everything quarterback Vince Young, the Longhorns will also be without the services of All-America tight end David Thomas, the team's leading receiver in 2005.

While Jermichael Finley can't replace Young, the redshirt freshman has a chance to make fans quickly forget about Thomas. He's certainly made an impression on his fellow teammates with his play this spring.

"I call him a beast," All-Big 12 Longhorns cornerback Aaron Ross said about Finley, after the 6-5 tight end led all receivers with 73 yards and a touchdown. "He's big. He's fast. He can catch, and he loves the weight room. Anything you ask, he can do it. I'm really glad he's on my team."

Finley signed with Texas out of in-state Diboll High, where he was a four-year starter at tight end and also played defensive end, wide receiver, safety, punter and kicker. His 30 TD catches and 2,127 receiving yards are both career school records. Following the new wave of tight ends, he was also a basketball player at Diboll, averaging 24 points and 20 rebounds his senior season.

"The reason why basketball players become good tight ends is because we can jump," Finley says.

With Thomas already a lock at tight end last year, Longhorns Coach Mack Brown decided to redshirt Finley, who says the experience helped him prepare for this season.

"Last year I was just getting a mental rep watching [Thomas] progress," says Finley, who added 30 pounds to his frame and is now at 240. "Every time he caught the ball ... I was just looking at him. I've got a long way to go. My passing game is there, but my blocking game I need to work on a little bit more."

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	TEXAS	OPP
SCORING	652	213
Points Per Game	50.2	16.4
FIRST DOWNS	321	224
Rushing	180	106
Passing	121	99
Penalty	20	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	3574	1702
Yards gained rushing	3866	2115
Yards lost rushing	292	413
Rushing Attempts	605	461
Average Per Rush	5.9	3.7
Average Per Game	274.9	130.9
TDs Rushing	55	15
PASSING YARDAGE	3083	2236
Att-Comp-Int	218-11	436-223-11
Average Per Pass	9.2	5.1
Average Per Catch	14.1	10.0
Average Per Game	237.2	172.0
TDs Passing	26	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	6657	3938
Total Plays	941	897
Average Per Play	7.1	4.4
Average Per Game	512.1	302.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	22-593	80-1522
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	43-671	10-70
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-90	11-151
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	27.0	19.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	7.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.2	13.7
FUMBLES-LOST	35-9	27-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	99-852	106-845
Average Per Game	65.5	65.0
PUNTS-YARDS	38-1444	89-3485
Average Per Punt	38.0	39.2
Net punt average	36.2	31.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:54	29:06
3RD-DOWN CONV.	86/173	61/200
3rd-Down Pct	50%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/20	10/21
4th-Down Pct	60%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-268	14-102
MISC YARDS	97	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	88	25
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-18	14-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	76-85	21-22
ATTENDANCE	416663	342231
Games/Avg Per Game	5/83333	5/68446
Neutral Site Games		3/80182

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Texas	160	218	158	116	652
Opponents	66	48	58	41	213

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Vince Young

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	163.95	325-212-10	65.2	3036	26	233.5

Matt Nordgren

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	72.25	11-6-1	54.5	47	0	3.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Vince Young	13	155	1050	6.8	12	80.8
Jamaal Charles	13	119	878	7.4	11	67.5
R. Taylor	13	76	513	6.8	12	39.5

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
David Thomas	13	50	613	12.3	5	47.2
Limas Sweed	13	36	545	15.1	5	41.9
Billy Pittman	13	34	750	22.1	5	57.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Michael Griffin	13	67	57	124
Michael Huff	13	53	56	109
Aaron Harris	13	57	34	91

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Brian Robison	12	7.0	62
Rodrique Wright	13	4.5	37
Robert Killebrew	13	4.0	49

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Michael Griffin	3	0	0.0	0
Aaron Ross	3	40	13.3	0
Aaron Harris	1	30	30.0	0

NORMAN

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

Official athletic Web site: www.soonersports.com

Adrian Peterson, RB

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
8-4	6-2

(beat Oregon in the Holiday Bowl, 17-14)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	UAB	
S.9	Washington	
S.16	@OREGON	
S.23	Middle Tennessee State	
O.7	Texas*	12-45
O.14	Iowa State	
O.21	Colorado	
O.28	@MISSOURI	
N.4	@TEXAS A&M	36-30
N.11	Texas Tech	21-23
N.18	@BAYLOR	37-30 (OT)
N.25	@OKLAHOMA STATE	42-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

No problem against UAB or Washington, but Sooners' trip to Oregon could determine if this is a championship-quality team.

**at Dallas*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Rhett Bomar (6-2, 215, So.)
RB	28	Adrian Peterson (6-2, 215, Jr.)
FB	40	Dane Zaslaw (6-0, 242, Jr.)
LT	76	Branndon Braxton (6-6, 318, So.)
LG	72	George Robinson (6-5, 360, So.)
C		Chad Roark (6-2, 290, Fr.)
RG	74	Brian Simmons (6-5, 290, r-Fr.)
RT	79	Chris Messner (6-6, 280, Sr.)
TE	19	Joe Jon Finley (6-6, 244, Jr.)
WR	4	Malcolm Kelly (6-4, 214, So.)
WR	9	Juaquin Iglesias (6-0, 198, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	58	Calvin Thibodeaux (6-1, 255, Sr.)
DT	68	Carl Pendleton (6-5, 285, Jr.)
DT	97	Cory Bennett (6-2, 275, So.)
DE	99	C.J. Ah You (6-4, 272, Sr.)
SLB	51	Demarrio Pleasant (6-2, 225, Jr.)
MLB	46	Zach Latimer (6-2, 232, Sr.)
WLB	42	Rufus Alexander (6-1, 231, Sr.)
CB	25	D.J. Wolfe (5-11, 200, Jr.)
CB	3	Reggie Smith (6-1, 199, So.)
FS	98	Darien Williams (5-10, 197, Jr.)
SS	6	Jason Carter (5-10, 192, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Garrett Hartley (5-9, 186, Jr.)
P	39	Mike Knall (5-10, 175, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bob Stoops, 8th year (75-16)
Career record: 75-16
Assistant coaches: Brent Venables (assoc. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs), Bobby Jack Wright (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./def. backs), Kevin Wilson (off. coord./TEs/FBs), Cale Gundy (recruiting coord./RBs), Kevin Sumlin (co-off. coord./passing game coord./WRs), James Patton (off. line), Josh Heupel (QBs), Jackie Shipp (def. line), Chris Wilson (def. ends)

BIG 12 SOUTH

Dynamic defense could vault Sooners past Texas for Big 12 South title

The news didn't change much from scrimmage to scrimmage during Oklahoma's spring workouts. Defense dominated.

Now, keep in mind, the Sooners operated without quarterback Rhett Bomar and running back Adrian Peterson involved in contact. No need to injure the franchises.

But make no mistake, this defense is reminding Bob Stoops of some of his best units, those years when you'd call the school's media relations department and try to argue out of a seventh Sooner making the all-conference team.

"I don't think there's any question we're ahead of where we were a year ago," Stoops says. "We have a chance to be pretty special this year."

And the Sooners weren't bad last year. They ranked No. 13 nationally in total defense and 18th against the run. The defense came up big in the 17-14 victory over Oregon in the Holiday Bowl.

What fuels the optimism? Let's start up front. Ends C.J. Ah You, the defensive MVP of the Holiday Bowl, and 2005 sack leader Calvin Thibodeaux had solid seasons, and they weren't even slated to start. Larry Birdine suffered torn biceps last August and didn't play until the bowl game. John Williams didn't even get that after tearing an ACL in the opener.

That's four quality players, all starters, for two end positions.

At tackle, Carl Pendleton returns and there is plenty of talent among Cory Bennett, Steven Coleman and DeMarcus Granger. Add to that group one of the nation's top recruits, Gerald McCoy, and Oklahoma's front should be the strongest in the Big 12.

That can also be said of the secondary. Reggie Smith was the talk of the spring. He moved from free safety to corner and picked up the position quickly. He's played smart and fundamentally sound, and "was exceptional," Stoops says. "He showed great anticipation. He's a big cover guy with a great change-of-direction and cover skills.

What else do you want?

Cornerback D.J. Wolfe went even farther in his position switch. He came to school as a running back and started every game at corner last season.

Nobody in the business finds the right spot for players better than Stoops. Some of his earlier strokes: Frank Romero went from the defense to offensive line and made All-Big 12. Jamaal Brown went the same path and became a first-round NFL pick. Mark Bradley is in the NFL as a wide receiver after starting as a corner.

The Sooners lost a potential starting linebacker in the spring when Ryan Reynolds tore knee ligaments.

Returning starter Rufus Alexander is bidding to become the program's fifth Butkus Award winner. He led the Sooners with 102 tackles, including 17 for loss and five sacks.

With all of that potential for an amazing defense, it's easy to forget that Oklahoma has a running back who finished second in the Heisman voting two years ago.

Peterson rushed for 817 fewer yards as a sophomore than he did as a freshman, yet still led Big 12 running backs with 1,108 rushing yards. His 14 rushing touchdowns were only one fewer than last year.

A high-ankle injury forced Peterson to miss at least one half of play in four games last season and he finished with 119 fewer attempts than 2004. There should be no lingering problems in the fall.

Peterson figures to be more of a receiving threat this year. That was an emphasis in the spring.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Gerald McCoy**, DL, 6-4, 305 *Nation's top DL prospect should contribute.*
2	**Adron Tennell**, WR, 6-5, 200 *Rangy wideout is also a top jumper in track.*
3	**Jermaine Gresham**, TE, 6-7, 230 *Two-sport phenom from Sooner State is highly touted.*
4	**Malcolm Williams**, DB, 5-10, 172 *Underrated defender could play early.*
5	**DeMarco Murray**, RB, 6-0, 183 *Las Vegas prep star has great potential.*

The idea is to get Peterson out of the crowded spaces and force linebackers or safeties into a one-on-one situation.

"I'll throw it three yards and he'll take it 50," Bomar says. "I like that."

Who in crimson-and-cream wouldn't? Peterson has caught 14 passes for 62 yards in his career.

"If they throw it, I'll catch it," Peterson says.

Bomar will throw it. He gave Oklahoma a good rookie season, passing for 168 yards per game with 10 touchdowns. The drop-off from the (former OU quarterback) Jason White seasons was pronounced. Bomar capped the year with a 229-yard passing effort and offensive MVP honors in the Holiday Bowl.

Bomar's fearlessness is also a concern. He's a hard-nosed player willing to absorb punishment for extra yards, but it leaves him vulnerable to injury. But Stoops believes Bomar will play smarter. For one thing, he wasn't engaged in a fierce position battle as he was a year ago.

Bomar wasn't the starter for the opener. Paul Thompson was. But the Sooners bogged down in losing their opener to TCU. Bomar then got the call.

"This feels totally different than last year," Bomar says. "When you have experience under your belt, that makes it a whole lot different."

Also back is leading receiver Malcolm Kelly, who caught 33 passes and two touchdowns in 2005.

But finding new musclemen up front is the biggest challenge for Oklahoma this season. Tackle Chris Messner is the lone returning starter. The other tackle will be Branndon Braxton, who started three games. George Robinson, who got in 10 games as a freshman last season, is one guard, while Brian Simmons, moved from the defensive side, is the other guard.

The center is expected to be Chad Roark, who enrolled from high school in January. That's how inexperienced the line is.

The new line coach, James Patton, came from Northwestern, where he faced a similar situation a last year. With one returning starter, the Wildcats put up big offensive numbers and advanced to the Sun Bowl.

New blood might not be a bad thing. Early on, the line got pushed around by smaller teams, and it never really jelled.

One of the bigger losses won't get much ink, but Stoops truly understood the importance of fullback J.D. Runnels, a ferocious blocker with wonderfully soft hands. Every chance he could, Stoops would tout Runnels for all-conference, knowing it would never happen.

Tight end Bubba Moses was also a terrific blocker, which means opportunity awaits those who open holes for Peterson and protect Bomar.

The kicker, Garrett Hartley, returns, but the Sooners are looking for a punter.

A year ago, the Sooners dug themselves into a big hole, losing to TCU out of the gate, falling at UCLA and getting smacked by Texas to end a five-game winning streak over the Longhorns. Oklahoma stood 2-3. The message from Stoops: Oklahoma wasn't that far off—hang in there.

The Sooners did and lost only once more, on a controversial call at Texas Tech. The temptation is to assume this Oklahoma team will be better. The defense undoubtedly will be excellent. Bomar, Peterson and the skill folks are top-notch. But that offensive line creates the hesitation. Pencil the Sooners in for a solid second place, with the annual meeting with Texas in Dallas settling the division as usual.

NEXT BIG THING

RUFUS ALEXANDER, senior linebacker

On the verge of superstardom, Rufus Alexander is ready to enter the national consciousness.

A linebacker with a big-time case of nastiness, Alexander is to the Sooners defense what running back Adrian Peterson is to the Oklahoma offense—its leader and best player.

Alexander won All-Big 12 honors in 2005 with a team-leading 102 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, five sacks, two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one interception. He is constantly around the ball and NFL scouts are already looking at him as the top linebacker prospect for the 2007 draft.

Alexander is a nonstop ball of energy on the field, and the effort he plays with is a reflection of how much he enjoys playing the game.

"I'm always motivated," Alexander says. "If you are going to be the best at what you do in life, you have to be willing to put in the time and work. I'm fortunate enough to play college football and if it takes me going to extra workouts to be the best player I can be, then that's what I'm going to do.

Alexander's play has largely been influenced by Sooners Coach Bob Stoops and his conditioning coach, Jerry Schmidt, but former Sooner Teddy Lehman (Detroit Lions) has been a major influence on how he plays the position.

"Teddy was a great student of the game," Alexander says. "He could see things coming at him during the game before they happened, and that's what I've tried to learn from Teddy: getting in the film room and studying the game."

Alexander has a nearly unbeatable combination of physical skills and he adds intelligence and outstanding preparation to the mix. Throw all those things together, add unlimited passion for the game and it means the Sooners have one of the most dominant players in the nation headlining their defense.

—Steve Silverman

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OU	OPP
SCORING	323	277
Points Per Game	26.9	23.1
FIRST DOWNS	231	206
Rushing	113	62
Passing	103	120
Penalty	15	24
RUSHING YARDAGE	2130	1087
Yards gained rushing	2557	1567
Yards lost rushing	427	480
Rushing Attempts	526	392
Average Per Rush	4.0	2.8
Average Per Game	177.5	90.6
TDs Rushing	27	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2131	2593
Att-Comp-Int	336-179-11	438-232-13
Average Per Pass	6.3	5.9
Average Per Catch	11.9	11.2
Average Per Game	177.6	216.1
TDs Passing	10	20
TOTAL OFFENSE	4261	3680
Total Plays	862	830
Average Per Play	4.9	4.4
Average Per Game	355.1	306.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	39-709	34-600
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-222	18-122
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-220	11-112
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	18.2	17.6
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.4	6.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.9	10.2
FUMBLES-LOST	31-13	23-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-860	91-683
Average Per Game	71.7	56.9
PUNTS-YARDS	71-3004	79-3370
Average Per Punt	42.3	42.7
Net punt average	37.8	37.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:29	28:31
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/190	59/181
3rd-Down Pct	36%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/19	7/16
4th-Down Pct	63%	44%
SACKS BY-YARDS	45-274	21-170
MISC YARDS	0	84
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	40	34
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-22	14-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	37-38	27-28
ATTENDANCE	505984	186585
Games/Avg Per Game	6/84331	3/62195
Neutral Site Games		3/64992

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oklahoma	91	65	64	93	10	323
Opponents	50	60	55	109	3	277

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Rhett Bomar

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	113.48	308-167-10	54.2	2018	10	168.2

Paul Thompson

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	69.83	26-11-1	42.3	109	0	10.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
A. Peterson	11	221	1104	5.0	14	100.4
Kejuan Jones	11	86	280	3.3	4	25.5
Jacob Gutierrez	11	48	254	5.3	2	23.1

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Malcolm Kelly	11	33	471	14.3	2	42.8
Travis Wilson	9	25	310	12.4	1	34.4
J.D. Runnels	12	20	205	10.2	1	17.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Rufus Alexander	12	56	46	102
Zach Latimer	12	52	32	84
D.J. Wolfe	12	45	20	65

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Calvin Thibodeaux	12	10.0	52
C.J. Ah You	12	7.0	34
Rufus Alexander	12	5.0	36

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Clint Ingram	5	63	12.6	1
D.J. Wolfe	2	65	32.5	1
Reggie Smith	2	14	7.0	0

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium (53,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Mike Leach, 7th year (48-28)
Career record: 48-28
Assistant coaches: Bill Bedenbaugh (off. line), Dave Brown (secondary), Sonny Dykes (co-off. coord./WRs), Dana Holgerson (co-off. coord./inside receivers), Carlos Mainord (safeties), Ruffin McNeill (asst. head coach), Charlie Sadler (def. ends), Lyle Setencich (def. coord./LBs), Seth Littrell (RBs)

Improved defense may be key to Red Raiders taking the next step on the national scene

Every year, the Red Raiders seem to get a little bit closer to a division championship.

When Mike Leach arrived as coach, Texas Tech continued its trend of six or seven regular-season victories. Leach bumped that up to eight, and last year's team finished the regular season at 9-2, the best record since 1976. The Cotton Bowl berth was the first as a Big 12 member.

Tech's 6-2 league record also was a high-water mark in Big 12 play, and the good folks in Lubbock would like to remind you that Texas Tech is the only program in the 10 years of league play that has never posted a losing mark.

Steady improvement is possible because the Red Raiders are becoming a more balanced team. The defense has gotten that much better in the Leach tenure, which begins its seventh year.

Three seasons ago, Tech could only beat a quality opponent in a shootout. Few who attended will ever forget the 51-49 loss at Oklahoma State or the 49-45 triumph at Mississippi.

Such games were wonderful spectacles, but hardly the mark of a championship contender. The steady improvement on defense, along with Leach's innovative offensive approach, has placed Tech on the cusp of being a national power.

Is this the year of the next step, an opportunity to break the Texas-Oklahoma stranglehold on the South Division?

Hard to say. Tech has some big shoes to fill, starting with the quarterback. The Red Raiders will have their fifth new starter in five years, but this season will be different because it's the first time since Kliff Kingsbury's junior season of 2001 that Tech will start a year without a senior quarterback.

Kingsbury was a third-year starter as a senior in 2002, and B.J. Symons, Sonny Cumbie and Cody Hodges all started only as seniors. All of them led the nation in passing yards.

The leader to succeed Hodges is a sophomore, Graham Harrell, who won't have the luxury of three or four years to become indoctrinated into the offense.

Harrell got plenty of time during Tech's non-conference schedule in 2005. He passed for 208 yards against Sam Houston State and took some snaps in the Cotton Bowl loss to Alabama.

But redshirt freshman Chris Todd is also part of the position battle, and Leach liked what he saw from both in the spring.

"Both of them surprised me a little with how relentless they were watching film," Leach recalls. "You'd wander through the building late at night, and there they were. It's very competitive."

Whoever starts, he'll have the usual wealth of targets. The top four wide receivers—Jarrett Hicks, Robert Johnson, Joel Filani and Danny Amendola—are back. They combined for 231 receptions.

The big loss is running back Taurean Henderson, a superior blocker who set NCAA records for career receptions by a running back (303) and games with a touchdown (38). He also rushed for more than 3,200 yards.

Whoever gets Henderson's plays among Shannon Woods, Kobey Lewis and Pete Richardson will be the player who is the best blocker, Leach says.

Only one starting offensive lineman is lost, so tackles Gabe Hall and Glenn January, guard Manuel Ramirez and center Brandon Jones should keep the Tech offense well-protected.

Alarms would usually sound with talented free safety Dwayne Slay being among six defensive starters gone. But three players who started in 2004 and were lost last season to injuries are back. Middle linebacker Brock Stratton, end Seth Nitschmann and tackle Dek Bake automatically raise the experience level of coordinator Lyle Setencich's unit.

Linebackers Keyunta Dawson and Fletcher Session are the best of the returning bunch. It was no small accomplishment that the defense held the Tech offense to three points through three quarters of the spring game.

"Defensively, I think this is the most impressive group of guys to be able to respond to play after play," Leach says.

Better defense and not much falloff from an offense that has plenty of playmakers returning.

Hmm.

Just maybe this is the year Tech has its best opportunity to nudge past the Longhorns and Sooners.

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
9-3	6-2

(lost to Alabama in the Cotton Bowl, 13-10)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Southern Methodist	
S.9	@UTEP	
S.16	@TCU	
S.23	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.30	@TEXAS A&M	56-17
O.7	Missouri	
O.14	@COLORADO	
O.21	@IOWA STATE	
O.28	Texas	17-52
N.4	Baylor	28-0
N.11	@OKLAHOMA	23-21
N.18	Oklahoma State	17-24

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Pull this one off to take the division lead and it could be the greatest day in the program's history.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

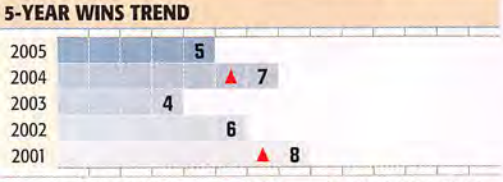
OFFENSE		
QB	6	Graham Harrell (6-3, 197, So.)
RB	21	Shannon Woods (5-11, 197, So.)
LT	69	Glenn January (6-7, 287, Sr.)
LG	65	Louis Vasquez (6-6, 335, So.)
C	73	Brandon Jones (6-3, 309, Sr.)
RG	63	Manuel Ramirez (6-4, 328, Sr.)
RT	78	Gabe Hall (6-4, 293, Sr.)
WR	20	Danny Amendola (5-11, 176, Jr.)
WR	88	Jarrett Hicks (6-3, 208, Sr.)
WR	9	Robert Johnson (6-1, 218, Sr.)
WR	8	Joel Filani (6-3, 214, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	McKinner Dixon (6-3, 245, So.)
DT	93	Chris Hudler (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	51	Dek Bake (6-5, 268, Sr.)
DE	92	Seth Nitschmann (6-4, 257, Jr.)
LB	96	Keyunta Dawson (6-2, 260, Jr.)
LB	45	Brock Stratton (5-11, 214, Jr.)
LB	42	Fletcher Session (6-0, 229, Jr.)
CB	36	Antonio Huffman (6-0, 180, Jr.)
CB	17	Chris Parker (5-11, 175, So.)
SS	49	Joe Garcia (6-2, 206, So.)
FS	7	Darcel McBath (6-1, 193, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	30	Alex Trlica (6-0, 172, Jr.)
P	22	Alex Reyes (6-1, 226, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Ofa Mohetau**, OL, 6-3, 340 *Top junior-college blocker is an immediate help.*
2	**Taylor Potts**, QB, 6-5, 220 *Underrated in-state QB could play early.*
3	**Clarence Ward**, DB, 6-0, 188 *Big-time talent needs consistency.*
4	**Leonard Hewitt**, DB, 5-10, 175 *All-State Texas prep star with potential.*
5	**Dan'Tay Ward**, DL, 6-2, 291 *Touted defender is tough to block.*

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	Big 12:
5-6	3-5

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Citadel	
S.9	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.16	Army*	
S.23	Louisiana Tech	
S. 30	Texas Tech	17-56
O.7	@KANSAS	
O.14	Missouri	
O.21	@OKLAHOMA STATE	62-23
O.28	@BAYLOR	16-13 (OT)
N.4	Oklahoma	30-36
N.11	Nebraska	
N.24	@TEXAS	29-40

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Red Raiders have moved past A&M in the division-power structure. This is the Aggies' chance to reclaim their territory.

** at San Antonio, TX*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/29

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Stephen McGee (6-3, 207, So.)
TB	25	Courtney Lewis (6-0, 204, Sr.)
FB	24	Chris Alexander (5-11, 246, Jr.)
QT	71	Yemi Babalola (6-4, 308, So.)
QG	64	Kirk Elder (6-4, 312, Jr.)
C	70	Cody Wallace (6-4, 296, Jr.)
SG	77	Grant Dickey (6-5, 313, Sr.)
ST	54	Corey Clark (6-6, 311, Jr.)
TE	3	Martellus Bennett (6-7, 248, So.)
WR	14	Chad Schroeder (6-1, 181, Sr.)
WR	2	Earvin Taylor (6-3, 244, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Chris Harrington (6-5, 263, Jr.)
DT	35	Bryce Reed (6-1, 304, Sr.)
DT	85	Red Bryant (6-5, 330, Jr.)
DE	49	Cyril Obiozor (6-4, 270, So.)
LB	50	Mark Dodge (6-2, 219, Jr.)
LB	10	Justin Warren (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WHP	48	Arkeith Brown (6-0, 175, So.)
CB	4	Danny Gorrer (6-0, 182, So.)
CB	27	Jordan Peterson (5-10 , 192, r-Fr.)
FS	26	Devin Gregg (5-11, 195, So.)
SS	33	Melvin Bullitt (6-1, 204, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	32	Layne Neumann (6-0, 175, Sr.)
P	44	Justin Brantly (6-3, 232, So.)

Stadium: Kyle Field (82,600)

A&M responds to the Longhorns' national title with staff shakeups and offensive adjustments

Texas A&M can only hope it took the wrong turn. With 17 starters back from a team that played in the Cotton Bowl the previous season, the 2005 Aggies figured to keep turning the corner and challenge for the division championship. Instead, A&M must have looked at the wrong map. It finished 5-6, stuck in fourth place in the Big 12 South.

And watching rival Texas win the national championship didn't make things better in College Station.

The postseason spin was positive: younger players had started to develop and the next season's roster would be made up of nearly all of Coach Dennis Franchione's recruits. Still, the disappointment of last season was palpable and changes were made. Gary Darnell, whose last job was head coach at Western Michigan, replaced Carl Torbush as defensive coordinator. Two other defensive staffers took jobs at other schools. Bill Clay, a former coordinator at Oklahoma State, takes over the safeties.

The moves were made after A&M had an abysmal year on defense, ranking 107th nationally in yards surrendered and dead last in pass defense.

The change in staff means a change in alignment. The Aggies will operate from a 4-2-5, replacing a linebacker with a defensive back.

"A little bit of change is healthy," Franchione says.

It was with defense in mind that A&M went shopping for recruits and at least one newcomer, junior-college transfer Mark Dodge, figures to start at linebacker.

Dodge is an interesting story. Before enrolling in college, he spent four years in the Army and was stationed at the Pentagon during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Aggies were seeking the non-traditional linebacker, more of a fleet, linebacker/strong safety hybrid. The idea was that most offenses operate out of a one-back, multiple-receiver set, and defenses need to match that type of athlete.

This A&M defense will be young, with only three seniors listed as starters entering fall camp—tackle Bryce Reed, linebacker Justin Warren and strong safety Melvin Bullitt. Three other linemen who started last season are on the two-deep: ends Chris Harrington and Jason Jack and tackle Red Bryant.

The secondary gets a new look. Bullitt may be joined by all sophomores and freshmen.

The Aggies didn't have many problems scoring last season. They averaged 32 points, third in the Big 12, and had the league's second-best rushing game at 234.9 yards per outing.

Where will those numbers go this season? Seven returning offensive starters say they should improve, even if one of the losses was quarterback Reggie McNeal.

The uneven career of McNeal came to an inglorious end last season when an injury kept him out of the Texas game and forfeited a chance to lead the Aggies to a winning season and bowl game.

McNeal left as the school's leader in career total offense and passing yards, but he played for two coaches and the Aggies changed their offense to a spread option in his senior season. McNeal was never comfortable in the option.

His successor, Stephen McGee, is, if his one start was any indication. McGee got the call against Texas and rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns. He passed for 83. The Aggies actually had a third-quarter lead in the game.

The 40-29 loss to the Longhorns, who obliterated Colorado a week later for the Big 12 championship and beat Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl for the national title, is actually a reason to feel good about A&M. In that game, 265-pound tailback Jorvorskie Lane rushed for 104 yards. That day, the Aggies rushed for 277 yards.

"People got a glimpse of the future that day," Franchonie says.

Lane, a sophomore, and senior Courtney Lewis, who led the Aggies with 723 rushing yards last year, lead an offense that should be in good shape. The position got even deeper on signing day when the Aggies secured freshman Mike Goodson, ranked among the nation's top 100 players.

Four starters return on the offensive line and so does tight end Martellus Bennett, the jewel of last year's recruiting class who impressed last season.

Head coach: Dennis Franchione, 4th year (16-18)
Career record: 91-73 (Division I-A)
Assistant coaches: Kenith Pope (asst. head coach/RBs), Gary Darnell (def. coord.), Les Koenning Jr. (off. coord./QBs), Bill Clay (safeties), Bob Debesse (WRs), Stan Eggen (def. line), Jim Bob Helduser (off. line), Van Malone (CBs), Mark Tommerdahl (TEs/special teams coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Mike Goodson**, RB, 6-0, 205 *Underrated Texas prep should emerge.*
2	**Anthony Lewis**, LB, 6-3, 225 *Solid defender should contribute early.*
3	**Cody Williams**, DE, 6-4, 235 *Sleeper of class could play linebacker.*
4	**Kenny Brown**, WR, 6-3, 197 *Rangy Oklahoma product could help.*
5	**Jarius Neal**, LB, 6-3, 218 *Touted junior-college defender.*

WACO, TEXAS

BAYLOR
BEARS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	3
2003	3
2002	3
2001	3

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✱ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Guy Morriss, 4th year (11-23)
Career record: 20-37
Stadium: Floyd Casey Stadium
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site: www.baylorbears.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	TCU	
S.9	Northwestern State	
S.16	@WASHINGTON ST	
S.23	Army	20-10
S.30	Kansas State	
O.7	@COLORADO	
O.14	@TEXAS	0-62
O.21	Kansas	
O.28	TEXAS A&M	13-16 (OT)
N.4	@TEXAS TECH	0-28
N.11	@OKLAHOMA ST	44-34
N.18	Oklahoma	30-37 (OT)

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The Bears beat the Aggies two years ago and all but beat them last season. This could be for a bowl game.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/19

OFFENSE		
QB	11	Shawn Bell (6-1, 219, Sr.)
TB	17	Paul Mosley (6-3, 235, Sr.)
FB	47	Damon Dotson (5-9, 211, Sr.)
LT	72	Jason Smith (6-5, 287, So.)
LG	71	Dan Gay (6-5, 314, So.)
C	50	Will Blaylock (6-2, 308, Sr.)
RG	70	Chad Smith (6-6, 299, Jr.)
RT	68	Nick Pace (6-3, 289, Jr.)
TE	5	Terrance Parks (6-4, 243, Jr.)
WR	1	Trent Shelton (6-2, 207, Sr.)
WR	7	Dominique Zeigler (6-3, 180, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	90	Marcus Foreman (6-2, 248, Sr.)
DT	96	Klayton Shoals (6-3, 281, Sr.)
NT	99	M.T. Robinson (6-1, 305, Sr.)
DE	93	Julian Hill (6-3, 254, Sr.)
LB	44	Nick Moore (6-1, 227, Jr.)
LB	8	Antonio Jones (6-3, 229, r-Fr.)
OS	15	Maurice Linguist (5-10, 207, Sr.)
ROV	11	Marlon Price (6-2, 180, So.)
CB	6	Anthony Arline (6-2, 194, Sr.)
CB	3	C.J. Wilson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
FS	1	Dwain Crawford (6-0, 202, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	43	Ryan Havens (5-10, 197, Sr.)
P	37	Daniel Sepulveda (6-3, 227, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **2-6 Big 12**

One victory away from its first bowl game as a Big 12 member, Baylor did not sulk over what might have been in the aftermath of 2005. The Bears made changes.

Out with the conventional offense, in with "Bear Air." No, it's not an airline, although the idea is to take to the skies.

Baylor is moving to a Texas Tech-like spread attack under new Offensive Coordinator Lee Hays. He ran the spread for three seasons at Division II West Texas A&M and helped write a success story there.

The program had a 7-36 record in the previous four seasons before Hays' arrival in 2003, and last season the Buffaloes finished with their best record in 55 years and first conference championship since 1986.

The team led Division II in passing and finished ninth in total offense. Hays and other offensive coaches would make the 200-mile round trip to Lubbock to watch Mike Leach's high-flying Texas Tech offense in action, and they took notes.

The system isn't new to Baylor Coach Guy Morriss. He was on the staffs of Leach and fellow offensive genius Hal Mumme at Valdosta State and Kentucky, respectively.

Happily for Baylor, the offense will be in the hands of an experienced quarterback. Shawn Bell is a senior who set a school record by completing 59.4 percent of his throws last season. That number should improve in the new scheme. He passed for 1,964 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2005.

Baylor returns its top receiver, Dominique Zeigler (47 receptions, 5 TDs), and rusher, Paul Mosley (657 yards, 7 TDs).

Three offensive linemen are back along with Jason Smith, who was moved from tight end to tackle at the end of last season. Their adjustment to the spread, learning to block from wider splits, is just as critical to the plan's success as any back or receiver. The Bears worked on different wrinkles from the spread, like a set with two running backs.

The concern is defense, where only four starters are back, including both cornerbacks, Anthony Arline and C.J. Wilson, and linemen Marcus Foreman and M.T. Robinson. No mention of Baylor is complete without touting Daniel Sepulveda, the nation's third-ranked punter who gives the Bears a weapon others lack.

STILLWATI

OKLAHOMA STATE
COWBOYS

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	▲7
2003	▲9
2002	▲8
2001	4

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✱ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Mike Gundy, 2nd year (4-7)
Career record: 4-7
Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium
Capacity: 48,000
Official athletic Web site: www.okstate.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Missouri State	
S.9	@ARKANSAS ST.*	20-10
S.16	Florida Atlantic	23-3
S.23	@HOUSTON	
O.7	@KANSAS STATE	
O.14	@KANSAS	
O.21	Texas A&M	23-62
O.28	Nebraska	
N.4	@TEXAS	28-47
N.11	Baylor	34-44
N.18	@TEXAS TECH	24-17
N.25	Oklahoma	14-42

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Pencil in at least a 3-1 record in non-league play for the Pokes. The Big 12 opener at Manhattan should set the tone for the rest of the season.

** at Little Rock, Ark.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/24

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Bobby Reid (6-3, 225, So.)
RB	29	Mike Hamilton (6-1, 215, So.)
FB	33	John Johnson (6-3, 225, So.)
LT	61	David Koenig (6-4, 290, Jr.)
LG	65	Steve Denning (6-4, 285, So.)
C	63	D. Washington (6-4, 295, So.)
RG	72	Kurt Seifried (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Corey Hilliard (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	87	B. Pettigrew (6-5, 255, So.)
WR	8	D'Juan Woods (6-1, 210, Sr.)
WR	12	Adarius Bowman (6-4, 215, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	51	Victor DeGrate (6-3, 250, Sr.)
DT	93	Ryan McBean (6-5, 290, Sr.)
NG	90	X. Lawson-Kennedy (6-1, 330, Sr.)
DE	50	Darnell Smith (6-0, 270, Sr.)
LB	19	Jeremy Nethon (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LB	2	Rod Johnson (6-3, 260, Jr.)
LB	44	Chris Collins (6-1, 235, Fr.)
CB	17	Jacob Lacey (5-10, 180, So.)
CB	7	Martel Van Zant (6-2, 200, Jr.)
FS	8	Donovan Woods (6-2, 220, Jr.)
SS	20	Andre Sexton (6-1, 200, r-Fr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Bruce Redden (5-9, 185, Sr.)
P	18	Matt Fodge (6-0, 185, So.)

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **1-7 Big 12**

Place the 2005 season in the file under "Growing Pains."

Les Miles had been to three straight bowl games, but the cupboard was mostly bare when former OSU quarterback Mike Gundy took over as coach and the Cowboys sunk to the bottom of the division, supplanting Baylor.

There were some positive signs. The Cowboys led Texas by 19 points at halftime, and they defeated Cotton Bowl-bound Texas Tech.

The 4-7 record was tough to swallow for Gundy, who guided the Cowboys to successive 10-victory seasons in the 1980s as a player.

"It was difficult for me to be out there not winning football games," Gundy recalls. "We knew it was going to be a tough year because of limitations at certain positions. That didn't make it any easier."

As for this season, the growth continues. There are some positives. North Carolina transfer Adarius Bowman could be special at wide receiver. He arrived in Stillwater after being charged with possession of marijuana. Bowman said he was innocent, claiming he had no idea there were drugs in the apartment. A judge agreed and Bowman was cleared.

But he had already been dismissed from the Tar Heels. When North Carolina invited him back, Bowman said no. His position coach, Gunter Brewer, had joined Oklahoma State's staff and Bowman came with him.

Throwing his way will be Bobby Reid, who missed more than half of last season with an injured foot and watched the offense plummet to No. 92 nationally.

The offensive line is a concern. The Cowboys could start two redshirt freshmen.

The defense should be fine as it gets a second year under coordinator Vance Bedford. Watch for strong safety Andre Sexton, whose spring workout was so good the Cowboys moved Donovan Woods, the former quarterback, to free safety.

The Oklahoma State administration feels good about Gundy and the staff. It added one year to all the coaches' contracts after last season. Athletic Director Mike Holder essentially gave this group a vote of confidence in a difficult year, and Gundy says he plans to make his boss happy.

"We're a better football team than we were at the end of last year," Gundy says. "It should show up this season."

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Johnnie Lee Higgins**, UTEP	*Most elusive RB*	**Quinton Smith**, Rice	*Top NFL prospect*	**Larry McSwain**, DE, UAB
Best hands	**Aundrae Allison**, WR East Carolina	*Best instincts*	**Nick Graham**, CB, Tulsa	*Top impact freshman*	**Max Anyium**, SS, Rice
Best passing QB	**Kevin Kolb**, Houston	*Best athlete*	**Larry McSwain**, DE, UAB	*Hardest hitter*	**Rocky Schwartz**, DB, Houston
Best running QB	**Joel Armstrong**, Rice	*Best under pressure*	**Paul Smith**, QB, Tulsa	*Biggest underachiever*	**Rice fans**

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Is there life after death?** SMU is the only Division I-A school ever to be dealt the NCAA's so-called "death penalty." That, plus the demise of the Southwest Conference, was a lethal double whammy for a once-proud program. But the Mustangs, who finished last season on a hot streak, could finally be back.
2. **Does Marshall fear no one?** The Thundering Herd plays road games against West Virginia, Kansas State and Tennessee. Future schedules are peppered with additional games against West Virginia and Tennessee, plus opponents like Wisconsin, Virginia Tech and Miami.
3. **Who will replace DeAngelo Williams?** New Memphis Running Backs Coach Tommie Robinson will be charged with the responsibility of finding a successor. Joseph Doss will likely step into Williams' much-used shoes.
4. **Is Tulane due for a few good breaks?** Not only was Tulane rendered homeless by Hurricane Katrina last season, but the Green Wave also owned one of the nation's worst turnover margins and punter Chris Beckman survived a bullet to the abdomen. He was the victim of a ricochet while shooting at targets on a hunting expedition.
5. **Is C-USA a league without a coaching hot seat?** Only one school (Rice) changed coaches following last season and no jobs would seem to be in jeopardy this year. George O'Leary was winless in 2004 at UCF, but now he's the toast of the league. If any head coach leaves C-USA after this season, it likely will be because a better job came along.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **EAST CAROLINA**: Pirates signed league's best class, according to *SuperPrep* and *Scout.com*.
2. **UAB**: Wide receiver Jared White is a four-star *Rivals.com* and *Scout.com* signee.
3. **MEMPHIS**: Quarterback Matt Malouf and WR Duke Calhoun should be great batterymates.
4. **MARSHALL**: Linebacker Josh Johnson and WR Darius Passmore are impact juco signees.
5. **HOUSTON**: Quarterback L.J. Castile is versatile enough to play anywhere.
6. **SOUTHERN MISS**: League's best class, according to *Rivals.com*, but the other recruiting services disagree.
7. **UCF**: Terry Mayo was nation's second-best juco QB, according to *collegefootballnews.com*.
8. **TULANE**: Green Wave invaded Pennsylvania to land OL Kevin Leary.
9. **TULSA**: Quarterback Clark Harrell was a coveted recruit.
10. **RICE**: Owls signed highly regarded dual-threat QB Pierre Beasley.
11. **UTEP**: Miners beat big-time competition for future defensive star Robert Williams.
12. **SMU**: Phillip Burley spurned Big 12, Pac-10 offers to sign with the Mustangs.

Demise of Conference USA football has been greatly exaggerated

By **JIMMIE TRAMEL**
Tulsa World

Conference USA underwent an extreme makeover last season and emerged better than perhaps expected.

Only six "old" C-USA schools remained after a membership turf war was waged by a few Division I-A conferences. Tulsa, Central Florida, Rice, UTEP, SMU and Marshall came aboard to join Memphis, Southern Miss, UAB, Tulane, East Carolina and Houston in a reconfigured league.

What was the result?

The conference put a record six teams in bowl games last season. Only the ACC, Big 12 and Big Ten sent more teams to the postseason.

The difference between the old C-USA and the new C-USA? Southern Miss Coach Jeff Bower says the league was deeper last season.

"I mean this in a positive way," he says. "I don't think anybody expected Tulsa and Central Florida to be in the [league] championship game. We talk all the time about parity. But in this league anything can happen. It is a deep league, and I said that before the season started last year."

The league was essentially turned upside down. Central Florida went from winless in 2004 to the Eastern Division title in 2005. Tulsa, which won four games in '04, captured the league championship in 2005.

Anyone who attempts to select a pecking order in this league is liable to wind up with egg on their face. But, on paper, it appears that three teams—Tulsa, UTEP and Houston—all have a good shot at winning the Western Division.

In the league's Eastern Hemisphere, UCF deserves to be picked first because last season's miracle turnaround was engineered with an young team. It would be folly to pick Southern Miss far from the top because the Golden Eagles just don't have losing seasons, period. But watch out for Marshall, which endured growing pains last year and is positioned to be this season's UCF.

The forecast at the bottom of the East is very cloudy. Why? None of the remaining Eastern teams (UAB, East Carolina, Memphis) is last-place-caliber.

Maybe that's what Bower means when he talks about the league's depth. Check it out for yourself on a not-so-usual football night. Seven of the conference's televised games (ESPN and ESPN2) will occur on weekdays.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-CONFERENCE USA TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Jordan Palmer, Sr., UTEP	DL	Larry McSwain, Sr., UAB
RB	Ahmad Bradshaw, Jr., Marshall	DL	Justin Rogers, Sr., SMU
RB	Kevin Smith, So., UCF	DL	Alex Obemese, Sr., UTEP
OL	George Batiste, Sr., Southern Miss	DL	Marcus Hands, Jr., East Carolina
OL	Cedric Gagne-Marcoux, Sr., UCF	LB	Nelson Coleman, Jr., Tulsa
OL	Doug Legursky, Jr., Marshall	LB	Jeremy Jones, Sr., UTEP
OL	Travis Cooley, Sr., Southern Miss	LB	Nick Bunting, Sr., Tulsa
OL	Jeff Perrett, Sr., Tulsa	DB	Wesley Smith, Sr., Memphis
WR	Aundrae Allison, Sr., East Carolina	DB	Bobby Blackshire, Sr., Tulsa
WR	Vincent Marshall, Sr., Houston	DB	Joe Burnett, So., UCF
TE	Shawn Nelson, So., Southern Miss	DB	Joe Sturdivant, Sr., SMU
PK	Darren McCaleb, Sr., Southern Miss	P	Michael Gibson, Sr., Memphis

Predicted order of finish:

EAST

1. UCF Knights — p. 76 — STOCK: UP
2. p. 77 — STOCK: STEADY
3. p. 78 — STOCK: UP
4. p. 78 — STOCK: DOWN
5. UAB Blazers — p. 79 — STOCK: DOWN
6. p. 79 — STOCK: UP

WEST

1. Tulsa — p. 80 — STOCK: STEADY
2. UTEP Miners — p. 81 — STOCK: STEADY
3. p. 82 — STOCK: UP
4. p. 82 — STOCK: UP
5. p. 83 — STOCK: STEADY
6. Rice — p. 83 — STOCK: STEADY

CENTRAL FLORIDA GOLDEN KNIGHTS

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	C-USA:
8-5	7-1

(lost to Nevada in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-48)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S2	Villanova	
S. 9	**@ FLORIDA**	
S.16	South Florida	14-31
S.26	Southern Miss	31-52
O.4	@MARSHALL	23-13
O.13	Pittsburgh	
O.21	Rice	31-28
O.28	@HOUSTON	31-29
N.4	East Carolina	30-20
N.11	@MEMPHIS	38-17
N.18	@TULANE	34-24
N.25	UAB	27-21

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

George O'Leary was a miracle worker last season. A victory at Florida would qualify as another miracle.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/15

OFFENSE		
QB	9	Steven Moffett (6-3, 210, Sr.)
FB	23	Jason Peters (6-1, 230, Jr.)
TB	24	Kevin Smith (6-1, 195, So.)
LT	78	Patrick Brown (6-5, 265, So.)
LG	79	Kyle Smith (6-3, 280, Jr.)
C	53	Cedric Gagne-Marcoux (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
RG	63	L.J. Anderson (6-3, 280, r-So.)
RT	70	Josh Sitton (6-3, 310, Jr.)
TE	85	Mike Merritt (6-3, 265, r-Jr.)
WR	11	Mike Walker (6-2, 190, Jr.)
WR	88	Sergio Joachim (6-5, 200, r-Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	91	Leger Douzable (6-4, 295, Jr.)
LT	90	Bryan Gabourel (6-3, 320, Sr.)
RT	74	Keith Shologan (6-2, 275, Jr.)
RE	44	Antonio Wallace (6-2, 230, So.)
SLB	50	Ronnell Sandy (6-0, 230, r-Sr.)
MLB	14	Steven Baker (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WLB	59	Cory Hogue (6-1, 220, So.)
LCB	31	Johnell Neal (5-11, 180, r-So.)
RCB	19	Joe Burnett (5-11, 180, So.)
FS	45	Jason Venson (5-10, 210, r-So.)
SS	29	Sha'reff Rashad (6-0, 200, r-So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	9	Michael Torres (5-9, 185, r-Jr.)
P	17	Aaron Horne (6-3, 190, Jr.)

Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl (65,438)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: George O'Leary, 3rd year (8-16)
Career record: 60-49
Assistant coaches: Miles Aldridge (DBs), James Bernhardt (recruiting coord./RBs), Joe Gilbert (off. line), George Godsey (QBs), Dave Huxtable (LBs/special teams), Brent Key (TEs), Peter McCarty (def. line), Tim Salem (off. coord./WRs), Lance Thompson (def. coord.)

O'Leary has Knight fever spreading in Orlando

Ready for some breaking news? George O'Leary can coach a little bit. There may have been O'Leary doubters aplenty following the 2004 season, when Central Florida was the nation's only winless Division I-A team. The Golden Knights lost their first 17 games under O'Leary, and then something crazy happened. They got better in a hurry.

Central Florida lost just one Conference USA game in 2005 and won the league's Eastern Division championship. The Golden Knights made their first bowl trip in school history and O'Leary, if he wanted to rub it in, could have said, "I told you so."

O'Leary made a statement last summer that UCF could win enough games to go bowling. The comment produced more snickers than a candy bar factory. But he knew he had talented players on campus with big-play potential. He knew freshmen would have to come in and help. Bottom line: O'Leary knew the Golden Knights were not far away from respectability. He just had to stay positive and convince the guys in shoulder pads that they could win.

"We lost our first two games and right away you had your doubters," O'Leary says. "But I thought the kids, when they got the [first] win, things just starting moving in the right direction. They got some confidence and things started to come together for them. They played basically the way they were supposed to play."

UCF fell one win shy of the biggest turnaround in NCAA history. The Golden Knights became the first team in NCAA history to record a five-game winning streak (and reach a conference title game) after going winless the previous season. They became the first team ever to play seven road games and advance to a bowl.

O'Leary went from O-fer Leary to National Coach of the Year, earning the latter distinction from *SI.com* and *CBSSportsline.com*. Expect him to lead UCF to its second bowl trip in school history this season because the Golden Knights should be older and better. Of the 13 seniors who played last season, only five were significant contributors. A total of 25 freshmen or sophomores started games last season, including seven first-year freshmen. A league-high six UCF players were selected to C-USA's All-Freshman Team.

Running back Kevin Smith rushed for 1,178 yards, the third-highest single-season total in school history, and was C-USA's Freshman of the Year. His 202-yard performance in a bowl game allowed him to become the nation's second-leading true freshman rusher. O'Leary says he first noticed Smith when the player was a high school junior.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Terry Mayo**, QB, 6-4, 245 *Junior-college product to run ship?*
2	**Rex Hill**, DL, 6-2, 300 *Promising juco bids for starting job.*
3	**Rashidi Haughton**, DE, 6-3, 235 *South Florida prospect has promise.*
4	**Jamar Newsome**, WR, 6-2, 182 *In-state talent could blossom.*
5	**Emery Allen**, DB, 5-9, 170 *Sunshine State athlete who can cover.*

"His senior year, he got moved to defensive back," the coach says. "I said, 'Thank God.' Otherwise, I think somebody would have grabbed him up before we could get to him. I said I wanted to take the kid as a running back and he wanted to do that."

Smith and senior quarterback Steven Moffett are among nine starters returning from last season. Only Daunte Culpepper has led a UCF team to more victories in a season.

Also back are all-league receiver Mike Walker and all five offensive line starters. Senior center Cedric Gagne-Marcoux was a first-team All-C-USA selection last season and was selected in the first round of the 2006 Canadian Football League Draft. He will become the property of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats if he does not sign with an NFL team following his college career.

Nine starters, chief among them first-team all-league defensive back Joe Burnett, also return on defense. The Golden Knights orchestrated their turnaround last season despite being lackluster on that side of the ball. They ranked next to last in Conference USA (and 96th nationally) in total defense.

"That's where I thought we would improve this past spring ball is defensively," O'Leary says. "I think we've got a lot more guys. We only lost three guys who played on defense out of our top 22."

O'Leary isn't counting solely on experience to make the defense better. He also wanted to tweak some things.

"We were way too stationary as a defense," he says. "We've got to get a lot more movement to our defense. Offenses are too good [to be stationary] unless you are just beating the guy you are facing. You have got to make them think. We spent a lot of time this past spring moving around and making it more difficult to read some of the stuff and put that doubt in the offense's mind."

O'Leary says UCF has a chance to be a pretty good football team if everything falls right. The Golden Knights had good karma last season, ranking 12th nationally in turnover margin and going 7-2 in games decided by 10 or fewer points.

"I think the biggest area we need to concentrate on is attitude," O'Leary says. "We were very lucky last year to win some games in the fourth quarter and those games could have gone either way. Right now, I am very concerned about some of our players thinking they are a lot better than they are."

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GOLDEN EAGLES

Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲ 7
2004	▲ 7
2003	■▲ 9
2002	▲ 7
2001	6

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	C-USA:
7-5	5-3

(beat Arkansas State in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-19)

Golden Eagles ready to fly past turmoil of 2005 Katrina season

Southern Miss will be good this season and the season after that and the season after that. That's a safe prediction because the Golden Eagles apparently don't know how to be bad. Southern Miss is one of seven Division I-A programs riding a string of 12 consecutive non-losing seasons. The Golden Eagles have gone to bowl games eight of the past nine seasons.

What's their secret?

"I think it's recruiting the right kind of kids and it's not necessarily ability," Coach Jeff Bower says. "Obviously you've got to recruit I-A talent, but you try to recruit kids who have character and are good kids. That's very important to me. I would like to think this is a program where kids are held accountable and they should be responsible and we try to recruit those type of kids."

Southern Miss passed a character test last season, going 7-5 and winning a second consecutive bowl game despite a distraction named Katrina. The schedule had to be juggled and the Golden Eagles had to relocate temporarily to Memphis after the infamous hurricane hit.

"We had probably 35 players whose families were affected by the hurricane," Bower says. "You can imagine what some of those kids went through. We played four straight road games. We played three games in 12 days. We were a mentally whipped football team by the end of the year."

Even a postseason reward of playing in the New Orleans Bowl (staged in Lafayette, La.) proved to be a hassle. The fall semester, interrupted by Katrina, had to be extended, and final exam week coincided with bowl week. Then recruiting "season" was thrown for a loop because there were days when no Hattiesburg hotel rooms were available to house prospects.

"I have been coaching a long time and I've never been through a year like that in my life," Bower says.

Bower, entering his 16th year as head coach at his alma mater, has already reached 103 wins during his stay in Hattiesburg. He'll likely reach 110 this season.

Southern Miss returns starters at every offensive position except right tackle and quarterback. Jeremy Young ended spring drills with the inside track to grab Dustin Almond's old job.

"We have competition there and things could change, but he deserves to go into the fall as the starter because he had a good spring," Bower says.

He also says "guys around the quarterback" must be a lot better than they were last season.

"When you have an experienced guy [at QB], you can put a lot on him and expect him to make plays like we did with Dustin the last couple of years," Bower says. "I think when you have got some inexperience at that position and you are really trying to develop some confidence within that player, you want to put a little bit more of a load on the players around him. No doubt he has got to play well at that position to be successful, but I want guys at other positions to become better playmakers and take a little pressure off our quarterback."

Southern Miss ranked 33rd nationally in passing last season, but Bower doesn't want his new quarterback throwing 40 times a game. The coach would prefer to upgrade a running attack that ranked 95th nationally last season. It should help that four starting offensive linemen return, including all-league honorees Travis Cooley and George Batiste, to block for backs Larry Thomas and Cody Hull, whose career-high 161 rushing yards in the New Orleans Bowl were the most by a Southern Miss player since 1998.

Tight end Shawn Nelson caught 35 passes for a team-best 540 yards and was named MVP of the New Orleans Bowl, but Bower issued a challenge to his receivers.

"We've got pretty good ability there," he says. "They need to play to their ability."

Southern Miss was the C-USA leader in scoring defense and sacks last season and also excelled at forcing turnovers. But Bower indicated the defense didn't play up to "our standard." He says too many big plays and too many yards were surrendered, causing the Golden Eagles to rank seventh among league teams in total defense.

"We've got to get people off the field quicker and we've got to eliminate the big plays," Bower says.

Returning defensive starters are ends Matthew Chatelain and Robert Henderson, linebackers Marcus Raines and Wayne Hardy, cornerback Caleb Hendrix and roverback Brandon Sumrall. Hendrix, a pure cover corner, missed much of last season with a pulled hamstring and participated in spring drills on a limited basis. Keep an eye on end Shadler Manning, who was Southern Miss' most improved defensive player in the spring.

"He's one of those guys we've just been kind of waiting for the light bulb to come on," Bower says. "Hopefully he will be able to carry that into the fall."

Special teams should be a strength. Kicker Darren McCaleb set single-season school records for field goals (23) and points (255) last season.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@FLORIDA	
S.9	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.16	North Carolina State	17-21
S.26	@UCF	52-31
O.3	@TULSA	17-34
O.14	Houston	24-27
O.21	@VIRGINIA TECH	
O.28	East Carolina	33-7
N.4	@MEMPHIS	22-24
N.11	@TULANE	26-7
N.18	UAB	37-28
N.25	Marshall	27-24 (OT)

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Golden Eagles occasionally give fits to teams from alleged power conferences.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/17

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Jeremy Young (6-3, 210, r-Jr.)
FB	33	Bobby Weakley (5-10, 241, Sr.)
RB	28	Cody Hull (5-11, 195, r-Jr.)
LT	75	Chris Clark (6-4, 280, r-Jr.)
LG	55	Travis Cooley (6-2, 285, r-Sr.)
C	56	Robby D'Angelo (6-1, 277, r-Sr.)
RG	70	George Batiste (6-5, 309, r-Sr.)
RT	66	Ryan McKee (6-5, 260, So.)
TE	89	Shawn Nelson (6-5, 230, r-So.)
FL	19	Josh Barnes (5-10, 191, Sr.)
SE	13	Anthony Perine (5-11, 174, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	96	Ken Griffith (6-3, 275, r-Jr.)
NT	94	Ryan Watson (6-2, 271, r-Jr.)
DT	97	Martavius Prince (6-3, 278, r-Jr.)
BAN	47	Matthew Chatelain (6-2, 245, r-Sr.)
SLB	24	Gerald McRath (6-2, 212, r-So.)
MLB	34	Marcus Raines (6-3, 240, r-Jr.)
WLB	27	Wayne Hardy (6-0, 223, r-Sr.)
FC	21	Jasper Faulk (5-10, 183, r-Sr.)
BC	14	Caleb Hendrix (5-10, 185, Sr.)
FS	15	LeVance Richmond (5-11, 193, Jr.)
ROV	6	Brandon Sumrall (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	16	Darren McCaleb (5-11, 165, Sr.)
P	3	Britt Barefoot (6-0, 174, r-So.)

Head coach: Jeff Bower, 16th year (103-72-1)
Career record: 103-72-1
Assistant coaches: Randy Butler (asst. head coach/TEs), Jay Hopson (def. coord./MLBs), Jay Johnson (off. coord./QBs), Courtney Messingham (WRs), Derrick Nix (RBs), Lytrel Pollard (DBs), Mitch Rodrigue (off. line), Fred Tate (OLBs), Bill Wilt (def. line)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Faron Hornes**, WR, 5-7, 160 *Floridian escaped in-state recruiters.*
2	**Ryan Ellis**, WR, 6-2, 190 *Another touted Sunshine State prospect.*
3	**Martevious Young**, QB, 6-1, 178 *Has tools to play at college level.*
4	**Anthony Gray**, DL, 6-0, 302 *In-state recruit could play early.*
5	**Vontre Mason**, DE, 6-2, 270 *Junior-college prospect seeks immediate time.*

MARSHALL
THUNDERING HERD

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Mark Snyder, 2nd year (4-7)
Career record: 4-7
Stadium: Joan C. Edwards Stadium
Capacity: 38,019
Official athletic Web site: www.herdzone.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.9	Hofstra	
S.16	@KANSAS STATE	19-21
S.23	@TENNESSEE	
O. 4	UCF	13-23
O.14	@SOUTHERN METH.	16-13 (OT)
O.21	@UAB	20-19
O.28	Memphis	3-26
N.4	Tulane	27-26
N.11	@EAST CAROLINA	29-34
N.18	UTEP	3-31
N.25	@SOUTHERN MISS	24-27 (OT)

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After facing a murderer's row of non-conference opponents, the Thundering Herd opens C-USA play with an ESPN2-televised game against the reigning Eastern Division champ.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/12

OFFENSE		
QB	14	Bernard Morris (6-4, 211, Jr.)
RB	44	Ahmad Bradshaw (5-11, 192, Jr.)
LT	73	Seth Cook (6-4, 332, Sr.)
LG	77	Zane Bruhin (6-6, 301, r-Fr.)
C	66	Doug Legursky (6-3, 311, Jr.)
RG	63	John Inman (6-5, 302, Jr.)
RT	78	Wesley Jones (6-5, 329, Sr.)
TE	13	Brian Shope (6-5, 248, Jr.)
WR	7	Hiram Moore (6-0, 195, Sr.)
WR	1	M. Fitzgerald (5-10, 202, Jr.)
WR	6	Shawn Lauzon (6-6, 204, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	96	Albert McClellan (6-2, 225, So.)
LT	84	Adrian Davis (6-3, 263, Sr.)
RT	99	Juan Underwood (6-3, 323, Sr.)
RE	91	Shavar Greer (6-0, 226, Sr.)
SLB	21	Ian Hoskins (6-2, 245, So.)
MLB	55	Brandon Souder (6-2, 236, Sr.)
WLB	47	Matt Couch (6-2, 235, Sr.)
DB	8	James Johnson (5-11, 180, So.)
DB	15	Terick Thomas (5-10, 155, So.)
FS	2	Geremy Rodamer (6-0, 191, So.)
SS	25	Curtis Keyes (6-0, 206, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	49	Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Sr.)
P	31	Marty Biagi (6-0, 170, So.)

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-5 C-USA**

Want to kick Marshall while the Thundering Herd is down? That window of opportunity may have already passed.

Yes, Marshall went 4-7 last year, snapping a string of 21 consecutive winning seasons. But the Herd is positioned for a big bounce-back campaign. Second-year Coach Mark Snyder lost a league-low 12 lettermen and returns a league-high 19 starters.

Sixteen first-year starters and eight true freshmen played for Snyder during a 2005 season that could have been worse (three C-USA victories came by a total of five points) and could have been better (three losses came by five or fewer points). Experience should allow Marshall to more often turn close games into triumphs and, perhaps, handle road trips a little better. The Herd was 1-4 away from home last season.

Questions still exist, particularly at quarterback. Bernard Morris and Jimmy Skinner split starts last season and they participated in a spring QB derby with Derek Devine. The Herd ranked next to last among C-USA teams in pass efficiency last season, partly because the quarterbacks threw more interceptions than touchdown passes.

Marshall was the lowest-scoring team in C-USA (and owned the league's worst red-zone scoring percentage) last season, but the running game should be in great shape. Four offensive linemen who combined for 41 starts last season, including all-league selection Doug Legursky, are back to block for junior running back Ahmad Bradshaw, who is being touted as a league player of the year candidate. Bradshaw was a one-man weapon of mass destruction during his sophomore season. Among C-USA players, he was second in rushing, sixth in receptions, third in all-purpose yards and third in scoring.

Will Albin, a 243-pound running back who saw action primarily in short-yardage situations last season, could get an expanded role and starting receivers Shawn Lauzon, Marcus Fitzgerald and Hiram Moore are back.

Nine starters return to a unit that led the league in total defense. Three Herd defenders—senior linebackers Dennis Thornton and Matt Couch and senior defensive back Curtis Keyes—ranked among C-USA's top 10 tacklers last season.

MEMPHIS
TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Tommy West, 6th year (32-28)
Career record: 67-63
Stadium: Liberty Bowl Memorial
Capacity: 62,380
Official athletic Web site: www.gotigersgo.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@MISSISSIPPI	6-10
S.9	Chattanooga	59-14
S.16	@EAST CAROLINA	27-24
S. 30	Tennessee	16-20
O.7	@UAB	20-37
O.14	Arkansas State	
O.21	Tulsa	31-37 (OT)
O.28	@MARSHALL	26-3
N.4	Southern Miss	24-22
N.11	UCF	17-38
N.18	Houston	35-20
N.25	@UTEP	27-20

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Tigers lost to the Vols by only four points last season and the rematch is on ESPN.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 57/29

OFFENSE		
QB	13	Martin Hankins (6-2, 205, r-Jr.)
TB	5	Joseph Doss (5-9, 193, Jr.)
LT	54	Willie Henderson (6-7, 335, r-Sr.)
LG	63	Blake Butler (6-3, 287, r-Sr.)
C	66	Stephen Schuh (6-1, 288, Sr.)
RG	69	Andy Smith (6-4, 307, r-Jr.)
RT	71	Brandon Pearce (6-6, 270, So.)
TE	85	Brett Russell (6-3, 233, r-So.)
WR	14	Earnest Williams (6-0, 186, r-So.)
WR	83	Ryan Scott (6-4, 207, Sr.)
WR	84	Mario Pratcher (6-4, 220, r-Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LT	41	Corey Mills (6-4, 260, r-So.)
NG	92	Van Houston (6-6, 280, r-Sr.)
RT	99	Rubio Phillips (6-2, 262, r-Sr.)
OLB	4	Greg Hinds (6-1, 233, Jr.)
MLB	37	Heath Grant (6-1, 225, Jr.)
OLB	30	Quinton McCrary (6-2, 232, r-Jr.)
RS	36	Rod Smith (6-1, 215, Jr.)
LCB	31	Jamaal Rufus (6-3, 207, Sr.)
RCB	8	Brandon McDonald (5-11, 180, Sr.)
FS	45	Wesley Smith (6-3, 195, Sr.)
LS	21	Derek Clenin (5-9, 193, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	91	Trey Adams (5-9, 175, r-So.)
P	34	Michael Gibson (6-2, 210, Sr.)

2005 Record: 7-5 overall, **5-3 C-USA**
(beat Akron in the Motor City Bowl, 38-31)

Good news arrived for Tommy West on April 11. West, who coached Memphis to a school-record third consecutive bowl trip last year, was granted an extension through 2010.

Says Athletic Director R.C. Johnson: "Our football team has experienced a great deal of success both on the playing field and in the classroom under Tommy, and we want to keep him right here at the University of Memphis to continue building a football program that has already become successful."

One thing that could have made it a better day for West was if DeAngelo Williams had been granted a lifetime contract to continue playing for the Tigers. Williams, a senior last season, finished his career as the leading rusher in Memphis history, the fourth-leading rusher in NCAA history and the all-time NCAA leader in 100-yard games (34). The Tigers will miss a guy who was responsible for 40 percent of their yards and more than half of their touchdowns last season.

If you're looking for a silver lining, Memphis will get back many key players who were sidelined by injuries last season and the Tiger offense, minus Williams, should be more balanced. Memphis was fifth nationally in rushing yards and 111th nationally in passing yards last season.

Of course, it's hard to muster much of a passing game when your quarterbacks seem as fragile as Samuel L. Jackson's character in the movie "Unbreakable." Patrick Byrne, who began last year as the starting QB, broke a leg on the third offensive play of the season. Freshman Will Hudgens broke a leg two games later. True freshman Billy Barefield directed the Tigers before giving way to Maurice Avery, who moved from receiver and led a 5-2 season-ending spurt.

Southeastern Louisiana transfer Martin Hankins was among those who competed for the quarterback job in the spring. He passed for 7,777 yards and 65 touchdowns in two seasons at the Division I-AA level. If he can fend off Byrne and other challengers, he will direct an offense that is deep in linemen (the so-called "Pit Crew" has given up just 14 sacks over the last two seasons) and receivers.

Senior safety Wesley Smith, an All-America candidate who's made 269 tackles over the last three seasons, leads the defense.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

UAB
BLAZERS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **3-5 C-USA**

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲7
2003	5
2002	5
2001	6

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Texas Coach Mack Brown and UAB Coach Watson Brown are brothers. They have more than parents in common. Both spent spring drills trying to replace a special quarterback.

At Texas, that player was Vince Young. Maybe you watched him will the Longhorns to a Rose Bowl victory.

At UAB, that player was Darrell Hackney. Hackney was the guy who put the blaze in the Blazers' offense. He started 38 career games, passing for 9,886 yards and 71 touchdowns. And even though UAB struggled to a 5-6 record last season, Hackney still led the offense to a league-best 6.3 yards per snap.

Coach Watson Brown began auditioning replacement candidates in the spring and no verdict will be rendered until the fall. Senior Chris Williams is the only quarterback on campus who has taken a snap in a UAB uniform. Junior Sam Hunt is a transfer who got a taste of game duty at Middle Tennessee in 2004. Redshirt freshman Joseph Webb is also in the mix. The early word is Hunt is the best runner among the QB hopefuls.

Brown returns more than 50 lettermen and is blessed with his biggest senior class in 12 years at the helm. Fourteen starters are back, and so are at least 13 others who have started at least one game. If questions can be answered at the quarterback, receiver and center positions, UAB could regain a place in C-USA's upper echelon.

"Everything else looks to be very solid," Brown says. "We have depth here, we have good speed, we have a very strong offensive line. I think we have the best set of running backs in our league. I'm really pleased with our linebackers, our secondary and our ends. But those question marks are big question marks. It's an older team with some question marks because of inexperience at just a few spots. ... "

Because of inexperience at the quarterback position, Brown may rely on the run more often than in the past. Returning backs Corey White, Dan Burks, Marculus Elliott and Trey Cheney have combined for career totals of 4,464 yards and 32 touchdowns.

New Defensive Coordinator Rick Christophel, who held the job when UAB led the nation in run defense in 2001, returns All-C-USA end Larry McSwain and three senior 'backers.

Head coach: Watson Brown, 12th year (59-65)
Career record: 91-143-1
Stadium: Legion Field
Capacity: 72,000
Official athletic Web site: www.uabsports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@OKLAHOMA	
S.9	East Carolina	23-31
S.16	@GEORGIA	
S.23	Mississippi State	
S.30	Troy	27-7
O.7	Memphis	37-20
O.14	@RICE	45-26
O.21	Marshall	19-20
O.31	@SMU	27-28
N.10	UTEP	35-23
N.18	@SOUTHERN MISS	28-37
N.25	@UCF	21-27

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

This is the Blazers' only home appearance over their final four games, so they can't afford to lose it.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/17

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Sam Hunt (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	35	David Sigler (6-3, 250, Jr.)
RB	30	Corey White (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LT	70	Cornelius Rogers (6-4, 320, Sr.)
LG	69	Quinton Harris (6-4, 330, Sr.)
C	53	Jake Seitz (6-2, 300, r-Fr.)
RG	73	Alan Leon (6-4, 320, Sr.)
RT	78	Julius Wilson (6-5, 310, Sr.)
TE	81	Jordan Erwin (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WR	14	Willie Edwards (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WR	29	Nick Coon (6-2, 185, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	44	Larry McSwain (6-1, 255, Sr.)
NT	54	Clarence Respress (6-1, 320, Sr.)
DT	92	Brandon Jeffries (6-5, 255, So.)
DE	98	Jermaine McElveen (6-5, 250, Sr.)
SLB	55	Marcus Mark (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB	41	Mastaki Smith (5-11, 230, Sr.)
WLB	11	Orlandus King (6-3, 215, Sr.)
CB	21	Kevin Sanders (5-11, 185, So.)
CB	13	Will Evans (5-9, 175, Sr.)
FS	18	Will Dunbar (6-1, 195, Jr.)
SS	23	Chris Felder (5-10, 185, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	86	Parker Mullins (5-11, 180, Sr.)

GREENVILLE, N.C.

EAST CAROLINA
PIRATES

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **4-4 C-USA**

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	2
2003	1
2002	4
2001	▲6

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

What did East Carolina Coach Skip Holtz inherit from his dad, the legendary Lou Holtz? Pirate fans hope the "second season" gene was passed from father to son.

Lou Holtz served as a coach at William & Mary, North Carolina State, Arkansas, Minnesota, Notre Dame and South Carolina. He took each of those programs to a postseason bowl game by his second season.

Skip Holtz is entering his second year as East Carolina's coach. In Season One, he guided the Pirates to a 5-6 record (their most wins since 2001) and striking offensive numbers, including the fourth-most passing yards in school history and a total-offense average that was among the 10 best in school history.

East Carolina could produce offensive pyrotechnics again. Senior quarterback James Pinkney is coming off a season in which he ranked 20th nationally in total offense. He was the only Conference USA player to earn league Player-of-the-Week honors three times last season, and his 2,773 passing yards ranked as the fourth-best single-season total in school history. Only two players have passed for more career yards at ECU.

Pinkney's heaves often land in the hands of senior Aundrae Allison, a first-team all-league receiver who led C-USA and ranked fourth nationally in catches per game last season. He became the first player in school history to produce 1,000 receiving yards in a season (83 catches, 1,024 yards) and the first to accumulate five 100-yard receiving games in a season.

And then there is junior running back Chris Johnson, who is C-USA's returning leader in all-purpose yards. He led the Pirates in rushing yards (684) for a second consecutive season, was second in receiving yards (356) and averaged 21.9 yards per kickoff return.

So why isn't anyone picking East Carolina to be C-USA's beast of the East?

The Pirates must repopulate the offensive line, where guard Matt Butler and tackle Eric Graham are the only returning starters. Guard Josh Coffman, a 6-7, 288-pound former tight end, should be game-ready after redshirting last season.

A defense anchored by third-team all-league selection Marcus Hands must make improvements after ranking 112th nationally against the run.

Head coach: Skip Holtz, 2nd year (5-6)
Career record: 5-6 (Division I-A)
Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
Capacity: 43,000
Official athletic Web site: www.ecupirates.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@NAVY	
S.9	@UAB	31-23
S.16	Memphis	24-27
S.23	West Virginia	15-20
O.7	Virginia	
O.14	Tulsa	13-45
O.21	Southern Methodist	24-17
O.28	@SOUTHERN MISS	7-33
N.4	@UCF	20-30
N.11	Marshall	34-29
N.18	@RICE	41-28
N.25	@N.C. STATE	

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The Pirates lost by only five points in Morgantown last season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/26

OFFENSE		
QB	7	James Pinkney (6-3, 211, Sr.)
FB	12	Kort Shankweiler (6-2, 228, Sr.)
RB	5	Chris Johnson (5-11, 184, Jr.)
OT	74	Terence Campbell (6-5, 320, r-Fr.)
OG	76	Josh Coffman (6-7, 288, Jr.)
C	61	Tom Wingenbach (6-6, 300, Sr.)
OG	68	Matt Butler (6-4, 308, Jr.)
OT	78	Eric Graham (6-6, 320, Sr.)
TE	3	Davon Drew (6-4, 237, So.)
WR	2	Aundrae Allison (6-1, 191, Sr.)
WR	80	Kevin Roach (6-4, 215, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Marcus Hands (6-5, 274, Jr.)
NG	96	Mark Robinson (6-3, 275, Jr.)
DT	93	Brandon Setzer (6-6, 311, So.)
DE	55	Shauntae Hunt (6-5, 270, Sr.)
LB	49	Jeremy Chambliss (6-0, 216, r-Fr.)
LB	48	Durwin Lamb (6-1, 236, Jr.)
LB	50	Quentin Cotton (6-2, 223, Jr.)
CB	8	Travis Williams (5-10, 182, Jr.)
CB	17	Kasey Ross (6-0, 180, Sr.)
FS		Jamar Flournoy (6-0, 206, Sr.)
SS	4	Kyle Chase (5-8, 188, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Robert Lee (5-11, 217, Sr.)
P	10	Ryan Dougherty (6-1, 227, Sr.)

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

Stadium: Skelly Stadium (40,385)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Steve Kragthorpe, 4th year (21-17)
Career record: 21-17
Assistant coaches: Charlie Stubbs (asst. head coach/off. coord./QBs), Keith Patterson (def. coord./safeties), Mark Nelson (def. line), Brad Calip (RBs), Darin Eliot (LBs), Derek Jones (CBs), Spencer Leftwich (off. line), Bob Schultz (WRs/special teams), Matt Wells (TEs/recruiting coord.)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	✪✪✪✪
DEFENSE	✪✪✪
SPECIAL TEAMS	✪✪✪✪
COACHING	✪✪✪

2005 Record:	C-USA:
9-4	6-2

(beat Fresno State in the Liberty Bowl, 31-24)

Kragthorpe has delivered on promise of Golden days for Hurricane in Tulsa

Step into a time machine and go back to Dec. 18, 2002. That was the day Steve Kragthorpe was introduced as the University of Tulsa's new head football coach.

During his initial press conference, Kragthorpe said one of the reasons he was attracted to the job was because Tulsa had been successful in the past. And if a program can be successful once, it can be successful again.

He was right.

Last season, Kragthorpe guided Tulsa to its first conference championship since 1985 and first bowl victory since 1991.

It was a return to glory for a program that, despite a couple of lean decades, has ample tradition. In the 1940s, Tulsa became the first school to play in five consecutive New Year's Day bowl games. Coach Glenn Dobbs revolutionized the college game in the 1960s with teams that led the nation in passing five consecutive seasons. The Golden Hurricane won four straight Missouri Valley Conference titles in the 1970s and six consecutive MVC crowns in the 1980s.

But the program was at low ebb (one victory over a Division I-A opponent in a two-year span) before Kragthorpe took over, and it was speculated that perhaps Tulsa had no business playing college football in this millennium.

No one is saying that anymore. Kragthorpe has two winning seasons in three years at the helm and Tulsa is poised for a continuation. The Golden Hurricane lost fewer lettermen than any team in C-USA's West Division.

Sure, one of the guys who was lost happens to be Garrett Mills, who produced more than a third of the team's receiving yards last season and set a I-A record for receiving yards by a tight end. But Tulsa returns five all-league players (including four on defense) and should get a boost from a handful of guys who skipped last season for assorted reasons.

Kedrick Alexander was an All-WAC player in 2003 who led the Hurricane in tackles. He hasn't played since because of off-the-field issues, but is expected to return to duty this fall. Steve Craver, whose big brother played at Nebraska, produced two sacks and an interception in a game at Oklahoma last season before sustaining a season-ending injury. Randy Duncan and Ty Page, former heralded recruits who sat out last season, will try to work their way into the picture at safety along with Anthony Germany, who was fourth among C-USA players in tackles for losses last season.

A new face on offense will be Courtney Tennial, a record-setting high school running back who got tired of playing behind a fellow named Adrian Peterson at Oklahoma. Tennial transferred to Tulsa and, pound-for-pound, could be the strongest guy on the team, according to position coach Brad Calip. A tailback-by-committee approach worked for the Hurricane last season and it is expected that Tennial will share time with Brandon Diles and Tarrion Adams.

The main man on offense is Paul Smith. The guitar-strumming quarterback ranked 24th nationally in pass efficiency last season and did not throw an interception in the last four games, helping his team rank fourth nationally in turnover margin. The Hurricane led C-USA in scoring, third-down conversions and time of possession last season. Smith is convinced the beat will go on.

"I have plenty of confidence that I can play without Garrett, but we have to realize as a team that we're capable of having a good offense without him," Smith says.

Smith was a near-unanimous choice when C-USA coaches were polled on the subject of which league player is best under pressure. He may not face much pressure since four starting offensive linemen—Mike Mengers, John Hameister-Reis, Aaron Danenhauer and all-league selection Jeff Perrett—return. Seven offensive starters return from a unit that topped 30 points in nine of the last 10 games.

Tulsa was second among C-USA teams in total defense and third in scoring defense last season. The Hurricane led the league in takeaways (36) and harvested 30 sacks. Nine defensive starters are back, including the top six tacklers. Linebackers Nelson Coleman and Nick Bunting are returning all-league players, as are defensive backs Bobby Blackshire and Nick Graham, who ranked among the nation's interception leaders last season.

The defense will be led by a new coordinator. Keith Patterson was promoted from linebackers coach after Todd Graham left to become head coach at Rice and Tulsa also had to hire two other defensive assistants. Kragthorpe described the transition as seamless.

Tulsa will need to continue to be blessed in the turnover department in order to maintain positive momentum. The only losing season of the Kragthorpe regime came when the Hurricane had a negative turnover margin. Tulsa flirted with sweeping its final 11 games during last season's 9-4 campaign. The only defeats in that span were by seven points to Houston and three points to UTEP.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Stephen F. Austin	
S.9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.16	North Texas	54-2
S.23	@NAVY	
O. 3	Southern Miss	34-17
O.14	@EAST CAROLINA	45-13
O.21	@MEMPHIS	37-31 (OT)
O.27	UTEP	38-41
N.4	@HOUSTON	23-30
N.11	Rice	41-21
N.18	@SOUTHERN METH.	20-13
N.24	Tulane	38-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Hurricane beat the Golden Eagles in Hattiesburg last season. ESPN2 will televise a Tuesday night rematch.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/15

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Paul Smith (6-2, 193, Jr.)
RB	20	Courtney Tennial (5-9, 214, r-Jr.)
LT	66	Mike Mengers (6-4, 280, Sr.)
LG	67	John Hameister-Ries (6-6, 308, Sr.)
C	56	Aaron Danenhauer (6-5, 302, Sr.)
RG	70	Rodrick Thomas (6-4, 347, r-So.)
RT	78	Jeff Perrett (6-7, 329, Sr.)
TE	30	Ted Curtis (6-1, 242, So.)
TE	88	Charles Ramsey (6-4, 254, Jr.)
WR	83	Ryan Bugg (6-0, 195, Sr.)
WR	80	Idris Moss (5-10, 180, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Chadd Evans (6-4, 265, Jr.)
NG	90	Brandon Jones (6-2, 297, Jr.)
DE	93	Moton Hopkins (6-3, 275, So.)
SLB	41	Nick Bunting (6-1, 230, Sr.)
MLB	55	Nelson Coleman (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB	32	Chris Chamberlain (6-2, 225, Jr.)
BAN	2	Kedrick Alexander (6-2, 210, Sr.)
CB	10	Roy Roberts (5-11, 205, So.)
CB	22	Nick Graham (5-11, 191, Sr.)
FS	4	Bobby Blackshire (6-3, 205, Sr.)
SPUR	11	Anthony Germany (6-1, 211, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	12	Jarrod Tracy (6-0, 165, Jr.)
P	5	Chris Kindred (5-11, 205, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Clark Harrell**, QB, 6-2, 190
Prolific Texas prep could get early look.
2. **Alonzo Wilson**, DB, 6-0, 165
Junior-college prospect should contend.
3. **Cameron Clemons**, WR, 5-11, 170
Late junior-college signee has promise.
4. **Jon Bell**, DE, 6-1, 255
Louisiana product is well-drilled.
5. **Devin Adair**, TE, 6-0, 225
Californian seeks early playing time.

UTEP MINERS

Stadium: Sun Bowl Stadium (51,500)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲	8
2004	▲	8
2003		2
2002		2
2001		2

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	C-USA:
8-4	5-3

(lost to Toledo in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)

Expect the Price to be right for QB Palmer's senior season

Finish is a word that ranks high on UTEP's priority list.

"One thing we have been saying is it's not how you start the race. It's how you finish the race," Coach Mike Price says.

UTEP began last season 8-1 and owned both a top 25 ranking and the inside track to C-USA's Western Division championship. The Miners then lost their last two regular-season games and were beaten by Toledo in the GMAC Bowl.

"Finishing has been a thing we talked about every day in spring ball and in winter conditioning and through the summer," Price says. "Fans remember the games in November and that's the truth."

Even though UTEP failed to close last season on a high note, the golden age of Miner football is now. The Miners are coming off consecutive eight-win seasons and back-to-back bowl trips for the first time in a half-century. Credit Price for changing the culture of a program that once rested at the bottom of college football's food chain.

"The players have done a great job," Price says. "The assistant coaches have done a great job of developing our players. But the community has just exploded with Miner mania. We get hundreds of people at our practice. It's every place you look now. They spent two solid hours yesterday on a sports talk radio show talking about our uniforms, what we should be wearing and where the stripes should go. Just three years ago, I'm not sure they knew what our schedule was. So it's really exciting to be involved with this—not just the football program or the school, but the whole community."

UTEP set school records for total home attendance and average home attendance last season. Miner football should be a hot ticket again in 2006 as Price has a team capable of contending for the C-USA championship. The Miners are stocked with 29 seniors, eight returning offensive starters and nine returning defensive starters. And because of the way they finished last season, players feel like they have something to prove.

"This team is going to be hungry," Price says.

Injuries played a role in UTEP's late-season stumble (quarterback Jordan Palmer was injured late in the first half of a lopsided bowl defeat). Palmer, younger brother of Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer, was the trigger man of an offense that led C-USA and ranked ninth nationally in passing yards last season.

Jordan Palmer enters his senior season as UTEP's career leader in total offense, passing yards and touchdown passes. He must do a better job of protecting the football if he wants to win a championship. He threw 19 interceptions last season, including eight during the season-ending three-game skid. Imagine what kind of season the Miners would have put together if they hadn't paced C-USA with 34 turnovers.

Price predicts Jordan will have a wonderful senior year.

"He's going into it a little bit differently," the coach says. "He's a neat guy because he has a real outgoing personality and he's involved in a lot of things. He plays golf. He is a good musician. He does a lot of things. He's an all-around type of athlete. I think that is all good and well, being well-adjusted. But to take the next step, he's got to be focused on being a better quarterback and not get sidetracked."

Receiver Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. and running back Marcus Thomas are among the top skill-position players returning to an offense that averaged 31.8 points and 422.8 yards per game last season.

Only one player in UTEP history has caught more touchdown passes than Higgins, who reeled in 49 balls for 837 yards last year. Thomas, a former *Parade* All-American, got a chance to be a go-to guy late last last season because running backs Tyler Ebell and Matt Austin sustained injuries. Thomas responded, setting a school record with four consecutive 100-yard games. Offensive line starters Robby Felix, James Riley and Tyler Ribitzki return to block for Thomas.

The Miners will break in new starters at one linebacker position and one defensive tackle spot, but every other defensive starter returns. Lineman Alex Obomese and linebacker Troy Collavo received all-conference honors last season and linebacker Jeremy Jones, who ranked third among C-USA players with 130 tackles, will challenge for all-league honors this season.

Price says his secondary should be vastly improved because of the experience level. Defensive backfield starters Nate Draughon, Joe Fleskoski, Quintin Demps and Josh Ferguson are back, as are defensive tackle Zach West and defensive end Joe Ward.

UTEP was 10-2 at home the last two seasons and will get a chance to make an early statement when Texas Tech visits Sun Bowl Stadium Sept. 9. The Miners, who were .500 on the road last year, play four of their last six away from El Paso.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
S.9	Texas Tech	
S.23	@NEW MEXICO	21-13
S.30	New Mexico State	34-17
O.7	Southern Methodist	27-40
O.14	Tulane	45-21
O.21	@HOUSTON	44-41 (OT)
O. 27	@ TULSA	41-38
N.4	Rice	38-31
N.10	@UAB	23-35
N.18	@MARSHALL	31-3
N.25	Memphis	20-27

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Tulsa got what UTEP wanted (a Western Division championship) last season. That subplot should make this collision interesting.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/21

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Jordan Palmer (6-5, 235, Sr.)
TB	8	Marcus Thomas (6-1, 215, Jr.)
LT	75	Oneil Cousins (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	61	Andy Smith (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	62	Robby Felix (6-3, 290, So.)
RG	73	James Riley (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RT	57	Tyler Ribitzki (6-5, 300, So.)
TE	37	Jake Sears (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WR	1	Daniel Robinson (6-4, 200, Sr.)
WR	21	Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. (6-0, 180, Sr.)
WR	12	Chris Day (5-9, 175, So.)
DEFENSE		
LE	47	Alex Obomese (6-3, 245, Sr.)
LT	56	Justin Hanel (6-4, 285, Sr.)
RT	63	Zach West (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RE	94	Joe Ward (6-4, 240, Sr.)
SLB	4	Jason McQuay (6-1, 210, Sr.)
MLB	44	Troy Collavo (6-0, 235, Sr.)
WLB	6	Jeremy Jones (6-1, 235, Sr.)
LCB	1	Nate Draughon (5-10, 175, Sr.)
RCB	2	Josh Ferguson (5-7, 185, Jr.)
FS	9	Quintin Demps (6-0, 215, Jr.)
SS	25	Joe Fleskoski (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	49	Reagan Schneider (6-0, 180, Sr.)
P	7	Ryan Hotchkiss (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Head coach: Mike Price, 3rd year (16-8)
Career record: 145-130
Assistant coaches: Tim Hundley (def. coord.), Eric Price (off. coord.), Lawrence Livingston Sr. (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Banks (RBs/punters/recruiting coord.), Aaron Price (QBs/kickers), Ikaika Malloe (def. tackles), Tim Duffie (def. ends), Jim Clark (CBs), Jeff Woodruff (safeties/special teams coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Trevor Vittatoe**, QB, 6-2, 200 *Athletic QB led Texas state prep champs.*
2	**Kyle Petersen**, P, 6-4, 220 *Californian one of top prep punters.*
3	**Donald Buckram**, RB, 5-10, 180 *Texan has shown great promise.*
4	**James Thomas**, QB, 5-11, 185 *Signal-caller could contend for job.*
5	**Elijah Goldtrap**, TE, 6-5, 255 *Another California prospect.*

HOUSTON COUGARS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲6
2004	3
2003	▲7
2002	5
2001	

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Art Briles, 4th year (16-20) **Career record:** 16-20
Stadium: John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium
Capacity: 32,000
Official athletic Web site: www.uhcougars.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@RICE	35-18
S.9	Tulane	35-14
S.16	Grambling State	
S.23	Oklahoma State	
S.30	@MIAMI (FL)	
O.7	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O.14	@SOUTHERN MISS	27-24
O.21	UTEP	41-44 (OT)
O.28	UCF	29-31
N.4	Tulsa	30-23
N.11	@SOUTHERN METH.	24-29
N.18	@MEMPHIS	20-35

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Houston could be playing for high stakes in a regular-season finale and Memphis was the only C-USA team to beat the Cougars by double digits last year.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/20

OFFENSE		
QB	4	Kevin Kolb (6-3, 225, Sr.)
RB	27	Jackie Battle (6-2, 250, Sr.)
LT	74	SirVincent Rogers (6-3, 305, Jr.)
LG	77	Jeff Akeroyd (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	67	Sterling Doty (6-1, 297, Sr.)
RG	66	Byron Alfred (6-2, 290, Jr.)
RT	73	Dustin Dickinson (6-3, 300, Jr.)
TE	87	Mark Hafner (6-3, 220, So.)
WR	86	Biren Early (6-3, 195, Sr.)
WR	2	Donnie Avery (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SL	17	Vincent Marshall (5-8, 175, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	56	Cody Pree (6-2, 300, So.)
NT	99	Marquay Love (6-0, 320, Sr.)
RE	53	Phillip Hunt (6-1, 250, So.)
OLB	1	Wade Koehl (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	34	Cody Lubojasky (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	41	Trent Allen (6-2, 244, Jr.)
OLB	3	Brendan Pahulu (6-3, 225, Jr.)
CB	10	Willie Gaston (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB	28	Kenneth Fontenette (6-0, 175, So.)
FS	18	Will Gulley (6-3, 215, Sr.)
SS	20	Rocky Schwartz (5-11, 195, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	14	Ben Bell (5-11, 160, So.)
P	2	Justin Laird (6-2, 200, Sr.)

2005 Record: 6-6 overall, **4-4 C-USA**
(lost to Kansas in the Fort Worth Bowl, 42-13)

It's possible that Kevin Kolb could become only the fourth quarterback in Division I-A history to start 50 consecutive games. In order for that to happen, he would have to lead Houston to a special season.

Kolb has started 36 consecutive games, most among current I-A quarterbacks. (Notre Dame's Brady Quinn lags two starts behind.) Kolb can get to 50 if the Cougars advance to the Conference USA title game and a bowl game. Both destinations appear reachable.

Houston led C-USA and ranked 19th nationally in total yards last season. Seven offensive starters return, including the nation's most seasoned pitcher-catcher combo.

Kolb has passed for more yards, thrown more completions and accumulated more yards of total offense than any returning collegian. Vincent Marshall, who has at least one reception in 36 consecutive games, is the active D-I leader in career catches and yards.

Coach Art Briles lauds the senior's intelligence, dedication, composure and adaptability.

And Marshall? "His timing is great," the coach says. "He's got outstanding speed and great explosiveness. He's got a knack for making the big play at the right time."

All-league offensive lineman SirVincent Rogers also is among returning headliners for a team that was held below 24 points just once during the regular season.

Houston went 6-6 in 2005, including a loss to Kansas in the Fort Worth Bowl, and a little more consistency could get the Cougars a lot closer to a conference throne. They won back-to-back games just once and went 4-4 in league play, grabbing a road victory against C-USA champ Tulsa and losing three conference games by a total of 10 points.

"There's so much parity in college football today," Briles says. "It comes down to just a play or two here or there in most of the football games."

Perhaps a favorable schedule (seven home games) and a veteran defense will help the Cougars rise above the pack. Ten starters (including safety Will Gulley, a 2004 starter who sat out last season with an injury) return to a crew that ranked 76th nationally in total defense last season. A few are four-year starters.

SMU MUSTANGS

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	3
2003	
2002	3
2001	4

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Phil Bennett, 5th year (11-35)
Career record: 11-35
Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium
Capacity: 32,000
Official athletic Web site: www.smumustangs.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@TEXAS TECH	
S.9	@NORTH TEXAS	
S.16	Sam Houston State	
S.23	Arkansas State	
S.30	@TULANE	10-31
O.7	@UTEP	40-27
O.14	Marshall	13-16 (OT)
O.21	@EAST CAROLINA	17-24
O.31	UAB	28-27
N.11	Houston	29-24
N.18	Tulsa	13-20
N.25	@RICE	27-7

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

This is a dangerous game for SMU. The Mustangs will be under pressure to beat a "little brother" from nearby Denton.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/14

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Justin Willis (6-1, 197, r-Fr.)
RB	8	DeMyron Martin (6-2, 215, So.)
RB	33	Richuel Massey (5-11, 215, So.)
LT	58	Darrin Johnson (6-6, 295, Sr.)
LG	67	Tommy Poynter (6-4, 285, So.)
C	66	Ben Poynter (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RG	50	Caleb Peveto (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	76	Kenard Burley (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	89	Ryan Kennedy (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	82	Bobby Chase (6-4, 205, Sr.)
WR	2	Blake Warren (5-7, 180, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	11	Cory Muse (6-3, 240, Jr.)
NG	56	Brandon Bonds (6-1, 300, Sr.)
DT	60	Adrian Haywood (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RE	40	Justin Rogers (6-4, 265, Sr.)
SLB	32	Paul Hiemenz (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	53	Reggie Carrington (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB	5	Wilton McCray (6-0, 205, Jr.)
CB	24	Cortley Blackmon (5-10, 185, Jr.)
CB	21	Jonathan Lindley (6-0, 185, Jr.)
FS	10	Randall Goode (5-11, 190, Sr.)
SS	29	Joe Sturdivant (6-2, 210, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	12	Thomas Morstead (6-4, 210, So.)
P	12	Thomas Morstead (6-4, 210, So.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **4-4 C-USA**

Is there a dark horse in C-USA's Western Division? Look no further than the squad with horses on its helmets.

SMU appears to be riding an elevator that is going up. Sure, the Mustangs went only 5-6 last season. But consider this: They won their most games since 1997. They closed with a three-game winning streak for the first time since 1999. They went 3-1 against bowl qualifiers. And they beat a ranked opponent (TCU) for the first time since 1986.

Winless as recently as 2003, SMU made enough progress to help Coach Phil Bennett land a contract extension through 2009.

"Our strong finish to the 2005 season only strengthened my belief that Phil Bennett is the man who will lead us to Conference USA titles and bowl games in the years to come," then-Athletic Director Jim Copeland (since retired) said when he announced the extension.

Bennett appreciated the vote of confidence, but says he is not satisfied. He wants to turn the program into a consistent winner and expressed excitement about 2006.

"If you look how close we were last season, it's clear that we're improving as a football team," he says. "Now we just have to take that next step. I think that we'll take that step this season."

Bennett got the job because of dandy work as a defensive assistant at high-profile programs and SMU fielded C-USA's second-best rushing defense last season. All four starting defensive linemen—Justin Rogers, Cory Muse, Adrian Haywood and Brandon Bonds—return. Rogers and Haywood were all-league selections last season, as was safety Joe Sturdivant. Muse made big plays in a season-ending upset of UTEP that clinched a trip to the C-USA title game for Tulsa. Muse was happy for former high school teammate Nick Graham, a Tulsa defensive back, but he wants his team to be the one pursuing a crown this year.

Eight starters, including Freshman All-America running back DeMyron Martin and all-league receiver Bobby Chase, return to a unit that exploded for 96 points in the last three games (including consecutive conquests of bowl-bound UTEP and Houston teams). The quarterback job was up for grabs in spring drills.

NEW ORLEANS

TULANE GREEN WAVE

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **1-7 C-USA**

The story of Tulane's 2005 season was #$%&!*.

In a Conference USA spring football prospectus, the league's media relations office used a bunch of seldom-stroked typewriter keys to indicate where the Green Wave played "home" games in Louisiana last season (example: $-Baton Rouge, &-Ruston and #-Shreveport).

It was a season unlike any other in college football history. Members of the Tulane football squad evacuated New Orleans on Aug. 28, one day before Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city. It began a road trip that never ended. Tulane student-athletes were relocated to other campuses and the Green Wave was forced to play every football game away from home.

Tulane won Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to college football's most inspirational student-athlete or team, but the Green Wave didn't win many games. Coach Chris Scelfo's team went 2-9 and will enter 2006 with an eight-game losing streak.

All nine of Tulane's assistant coaches returned, even though four lost homes or suffered extensive damage to homes due to Hurricane Katrina. There are bigger priorities than football nowadays in New Orleans, but Scelfo's staff is going about the business of restoring normalcy.

Tulane will play its first game in the Superdome since 2004 when SMU comes to New Orleans on Sept. 30.

By then, perhaps quarterback Lester Ricard will be back to his old self. Ricard enters his senior season as the seventh-leading passer in school history, but he was benched last season when the offense failed to click. In national statistics, the Green Wave ranked 44th in passing yards, but 95th in total offense, 92nd in scoring and 112th in rushing yards.

Perhaps Matt Forte, who scooted for 137 yards in a season finale and 156 yards in the spring game, will upgrade a running attack that was C-USA's worst in yards per carry, yards per game and rushing first downs.

Preston Brown did not catch a pass in his first two seasons, but led Tulane in almost every receiving category last year and was named third-team all-league. He is among seven returning offensive starters.

Five starters are back for a defense that ranked third in C-USA.

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	5
2003	5
2002	▲8
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Chris Scelfo, 8th year (33-49)
Career record: 33-49
Stadium: Louisiana Superdome
Capacity: 69,767
Official athletic Web site: www.tulanegreenwave.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.9	@HOUSTON	14-35
S.16	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	14-21
S.23	@LSU	
S.30	Southern Methodist	31-10
O.7	Rice	34-42
O.14	@UTEP	21-45
O.21	@AUBURN	
O.28	Army	
N.4	@MARSHALL	26-27
N.11	Southern Miss	7-26
N.18	UCF	24-34
N.24	@TULSA	14-38

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Wave played every game on the road because of Hurricane Katrina last year and open this season with a three-game road trip. This is their return to the dome.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/16

OFFENSE		
QB	8	Lester Ricard (6-5, 222, r-Sr.)
FB	23	Ade Tuyo (5-11, 203, Jr.)
RB	25	Matt Forte (6-1, 224, Jr.)
LT	77	Troy Kropog (6-4, 287, r-So.)
LG	51	Aryan Barto (6-4, 262, r-Jr.)
C	65	Michael Parenton (6-3, 292, r-So.)
RG	66	Donald Madlock (6-4, 295, r-Sr.)
RT	64	Derek Rogers (6-5, 309, r-Sr.)
TE	19	Jerome Landry (6-4, 260, r-Sr.)
WR	11	Damarcus Davis (6-0, 189, r-Sr.)
WR	81	Preston Brown (6-4, 232, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	57	Antonio Harris (6-2, 271, Jr.)
DT	93	Taurean Brown (6-6, 280, r-Sr.)
DT	90	Alvin Johnson (6-3, 300, r-Jr.)
DE	94	Sean Carney (6-3, 240, So.)
SLB	17	Terrence Peterson (5-11, 215, r-Sr.)
MLB	44	Jordan Ellis (6-1, 235, So.)
WLB	48	James Dillard (6-1, 220, So.)
CB	21	Jeremy Foreman (6-2, 172, r-Sr.)
CB	4	Israel Route (5-9, 184, Sr.)
FS	14	Carlis Jackson (6-0, 178, r-Jr.)
SS	18	Joe Goosby (6-0, 203, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	29	Barrett Pepper (5-10, 193, Jr.)
P	45	Chris Beckman (6-2, 202, r-Sr.)

HOUSTON

RICE OWLS

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, **1-7 C-USA**

If first-year Rice Coach Todd Graham feels like he has been in this situation before, it's because he has.

Graham inherited a squad that won one game last season. Rice's 1-10 record was its worst since 1988 and, before the lone victory, the Owls owned the longest losing streak in Division I-A.

In 2003, Graham was part of a first-year staff at Tulsa. He was defensive coordinator of a program coming off back-to-back one-win seasons. And, just before the arrival of the new staff, the Golden Hurricane owned the longest losing streak in I-A football.

Graham got the Rice job because he helped Steve Kragthorpe reverse Tulsa's fortunes. The Golden Hurricane won the Conference USA title last season. Owl fans are hopeful Graham has the recipe to cook up another turnaround.

Rice hasn't gone to a bowl since the 1961 Bluebonnet Bowl. That means the Owls haven't played in a postseason game in Graham's lifetime. But Graham researched the situation before taking the job and said, "There's no doubt in my mind we're going to build a winner."

Pressed for details, Graham pointed to facilities, proximity to fertile recruiting turf and high academic standards. High academic standards? He says he was able to do many things schematically at Tulsa because kids were smart enough to handle it.

Graham, a Texas native and former high school coach in the state, believes he can recruit Texas well because of the relationships he has forged with coaches there.

One of Graham's first "recruits" was a guy named Major Applewhite. The former Texas quarterback agreed to be Graham's offense coordinator and the option offense of former Coach Ken Hatfield will be shelved in favor of a multiple attack. But do the Owls have the kind of players on campus that will allow them to throw the ball?

Graham indicated Tulsa's turnaround was made possible because coaches there adjusted the offense to fit available personnel. He expects more of the same. The Owls will find ways to get the ball to playmakers like Quinton Smith (whose 6.5 career rushing average is the second best in school history), Jared Dillard (his 35 catches last year were the most by an Owl since 1993) and Joel Armstrong, who was previously the starter at QB.

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	1
2004	3
2003	5
2002	4
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Todd Graham, 1st year
Career record: 0-0
Stadium: Rice Stadium
Capacity: 70,000
Official athletic Web site: www.riceowls.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Houston	18-35
S.9	@UCLA	21-63
S.16	Texas*	10-51
S.23	@FLORIDA STATE	
S.30	@ARMY	
O.7	@TULANE	42-34
O.14	UAB	26-45
O.21	@UCF	28-31
N.4	@UTEP	31-38
N.11	@TULSA	21-41
N.18	East Carolina	28-41
N.25	Southern Methodist	7-27

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

New Owls Coach Todd Graham, the former Tulsa defensive coordinator, will cross paths with his former players and staff mates.

** at Houston*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/19

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Chase Clement (6-1, 185, So.)
FB	32	Trey Hopson (5-9, 225, Fr.)
TB	44	Quinton Smith (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	68	Lute Barber (6-7, 300, Jr.)
LG	72	Robby Heos (6-3, 300, Jr.)
C	73	Austin Wilkinson (6-1, 275, So.)
RG	52	David Perkins (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RT	50	Rolf Krueger (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	88	Will Moss (6-4, 255, So.)
WR	81	Jared Dillard (5-11, 170, So.)
WR	1	Gary Anderson (6-0, 175, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	58	Jonathan Cary (6-3, 285, Jr.)
NG	99	George Chukwu (6-1, 305, Jr.)
DE	98	Courtney Gordon (6-4, 250, Sr.)
SPU	29	Carl Taylor (6-2, 185, So.)
SLB	4	Marcus Rucker (6-0, 215, Sr.)
MLB	36	Vernon James (6-0, 215, So.)
WLB	31	Brian Raines (5-11, 195, So.)
CB	15	Brandon King (5-9, 175, So.)
CB	9	Ja'Corey Shepherd (5-11, 175, So.)
BAN	21	Chad Price (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	2	Andray Downs (5-9, 185, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	41	Luke Juist (6-0, 200, Jr.)
P	85	Jared Scruggs (6-2, 190, Sr.)

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Steve Smith**, USC	*Most elusive RB*	**Marshawn Lynch**, California	*Top NFL prospect*	**Brandon Mebane**, DT, California
Best hands	**Jason Hill**, WR, Washington State	*Best instincts*	**Zach Miller**, TE, Arizona State	*Top impact freshman*	**Stafon Johnson**, TB, USC
Best passing QB	**Sam Keller**, Arizona State	*Best athlete*	**Dwayne Jarrett**, WR, USC	*Hardest hitter*	**Desmond Bishop**, LB, California
Best running QB	**Isaiah Stanback**, Washington	*Best under pressure*	**Alexis Serna**, PK, Oregon State	*Biggest underachiever*	**Matt Moore**, QB, Oregon State

Predicted order of finish:

1. Cal — p. 86 STOCK: UP
2. USC — p. 88 STOCK: DOWN
3. Arizona State — p. 90 STOCK: STEADY
4. Oregon — p. 92 STOCK: DOWN
5. Washington — p. 94 STOCK: STEADY
6. UCLA — p. 95 STOCK: DOWN
7. Stanford — p. 96 STOCK: STEADY
8. Arizona — p. 96 STOCK: UP
9. Washington State — p. 97 STOCK: STEADY
10. Oregon State — p. 97 STOCK: UP

With no Leinarts to be found at QB, conference race should be a free-for-all

By **JON WILNER**
San Jose Mercury News

It's usually easy to predict the Pacific-10 Conference champion. Just identify the all-league quarterback and pick his team. Not only did it happen last season, when Matt Leinart led USC to the title, it has happened 11 of the past 12 seasons. The stretch began with Danny O'Neil and Oregon in '94, skipped the ensuing season, then continued 10 consecutive years.

It makes perfect sense, really. The Pac-10 has always been a quarterback's league. The weather lends itself to throwing the ball in November, when Big Ten and Big 12 teams turn to their ground games because of frigid, windy conditions. The gurus of the West Coast and spread offenses, Bill Walsh and Jack Elway, respectively, coached in California, and their disciples have dominated the Pac-10 coaching ranks for decades.

And for whatever reason, the demographics out west—an endless supply of quarterbacks and receivers but relatively few dominant defensive linemen—seem to favor the passing game.

Most years, it's easy to pick the all-conference quarterback; just find the most accomplished returning player and ink him in. But this season, it's not so simple.

The top returnee is probably Arizona State's Sam Keller, who threw 20 touchdowns in eight games last season before injuring his thumb. His replacement, Rudy Carpenter, led the nation in passing efficiency in his limited action, and they'll compete for the job. Keller is the favorite, but hardly a lock to start the opener. What's more, the defensively challenged Sun Devils could hardly be considered the favorite even if Keller's spot was secure.

USC has the best overall talent, but its starting quarterback, John David Booty, is stepping into the spotlight for the first time.

Cal is loaded at the skill positions and has arguably the league's best defense, but the Bears also lack a proven passer.

Meanwhile, the veteran quarterbacks—Stanford's Trent Edwards, Oregon State's Matt Moore and Washington State's Alex Brink, to name three—are paired with flawed teams.

In other words, there's no obvious pick for an all-league quarterback and, consequently, no clear favorite to win the league.

It should be a fun fall.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Sam Keller, Sr., Arizona State	DL	Lawrence Jackson, Jr., USC
RB	Marshawn Lynch, Jr., Cal	DL	Brandon Mebane, Sr., Cal
RB	Jonathan Stewart, So., Oregon	DL	Mkristo Bruce, Sr., Washington State
OL	Sam Baker, Jr., USC	DL	Nu'u Tafisi, Sr., Cal
OL	Ryan Kalil, Sr., USC	LB	Keith Rivers, Jr., USC
OL	Enoka Lucas, Sr., Oregon	LB	Desmond Bishop, Sr., Cal
OL	Shannon Tevaga, Jr., UCLA	LB	Scott Davis, Sr., Washington State
OL	Andrew Carnahan, Sr., Arizona State	DB	Daymeion Hughes, Sr., Cal
WR	Jason Hill, Sr., Washington State	DB	Antoine Cason, Jr., Arizona
WR	Dwayne Jarrett, Jr., USC	DB	J.D. Nelson, Sr., Oregon
TE	Zach Miller, Jr., Arizona State	DB	Sabby Piscitelli, Sr., Oregon State
PK	Alexis Serna, Jr., Oregon State	P	Nick Folk, Sr., Arizona

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Is USC quarterback John David Booty ready for prime time?** Booty is expected to replace Matt Leinart at the helm of the Trojan offense. If he's not ready, USC might actually lose more than one game.
2. **Who's going to direct Cal's attack?** Nate Longshore and Joe Ayoob will compete for the starting quarterback job in training camp. If either emerges as an elite passer, the Bears could win the league.
3. **Can Arizona State avoid a midseason slump?** The Sun Devils have all the parts for a title run, but they must avoid the kind of October swoon that has doomed them in the past.
4. **Will Tyrone Willingham pull Washington out of the cellar?** The once-proud Huskies have won one conference game the past two years. If they're competitive, the league takes on a different complexion.
5. **Who's going to play tailback for USC?** There's no Reggie Bush and no LenDale White, and most of the veterans are either injured or ineligible. Will a true freshman win the job?

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **USC**: Like someone was going to supplant the Trojans as No. 1? Pete Carroll signed 13 of *scout.com's* top 100 players.
2. **CALIFORNIA**: Jeff Tedford needed to bolster his defensive line, and he did with tackles Derrick Hill and Mike Costanzo.
3. **UCLA**: The class looks good until you compare it to the one across town. Long Beach Poly WR Terrence Austin is a major talent.
4. **ARIZONA**: Stud cornerback Devin Ross is the biggest name in a big class that is heavy on SoCal prospects.
5. **WASHINGTON**: The best way to rebuild is with an elite quarterback, and the Huskies got one in Jake Locker.
6. **ARIZONA STATE**: Could be one of Dirk Koetter's best classes, but he once again went heavy on jucos.
7. **STANFORD**: A few late signees, including defensive tackle Sione Fua, turned this into the Cardinal's best class in several years.
8. **OREGON STATE**: The best of a mediocre class is probably defensive tackle Dorian Smith, a JC transfer who should help immediately.
9. **OREGON**: A substandard class (for this program) includes three quarterbacks and OL Fenuki Tupou, who had offers from Cal and Nebraska.
10. **WASHINGTON STATE**: You try recruiting kids to Pullman. Cougars suffer when they don't get the best in-state kids—which they didn't.

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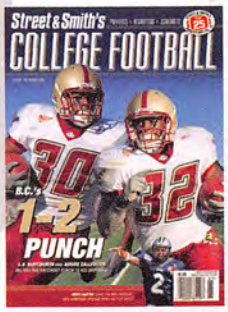
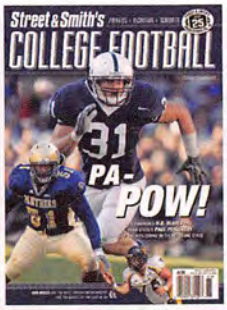
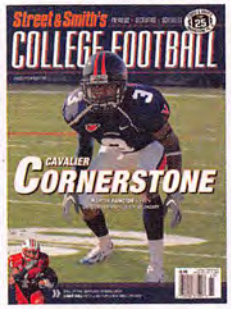


REGION 1
Cover: L.V. Whitworth and Andre Callender (Boston College) *Inset:* Ricky Santos (New Hampshire)

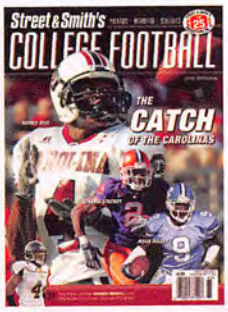
REGION 2
Cover: Clark Harris (Rutgers) *Inset:* Turner Gill (Buffalo)



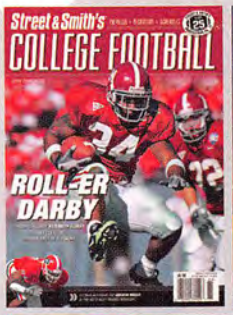
REGION 3
Cover: Paul Posluszny (Penn State) and H.B. Blades (Pittsburgh) *Inset:* Dan Mozes (West Virginia)



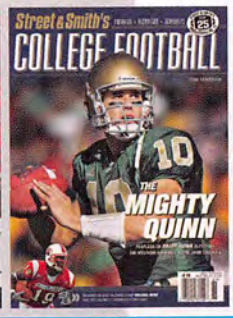
REGION 4
Cover: Marcus Hamilton (Virginia) *Inset:* Lance Ball (Maryland)



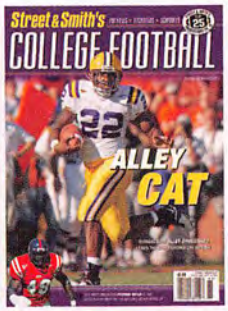
REGION 5
Cover: Sidney Rice (South Carolina) Chansi Stucky (Clemson) and Jesse Holley (UNC) *Inset:* Marques Murrell (Appalachian St.)



REGION 6
Cover: Kenneth Darby (Alabama) *Inset:* Quentin Moses (Georgia)

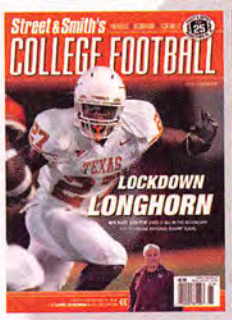


REGION 7
Cover: Brady Quinn (Notre Dame) *Inset:* Michael Bush (Louisville)



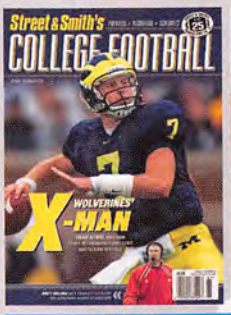
REGION 8
Cover: Alley Broussard (LSU) *Inset:* Patrick Willis (Ole Miss)

REGION 9
Cover: Chris Leak (Florida), Drew Weatherford (Florida State) and Kyle Wright (Miami)

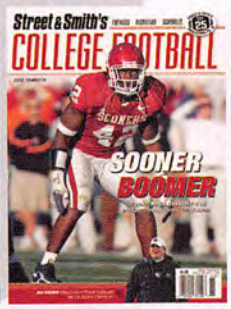


REGION 10
Cover: Michael Griffin (Texas) *Inset:* Dennis Franchione (Texas A&M)

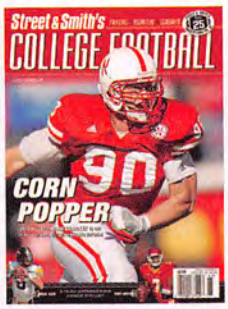
REGION 11
Cover: Troy Smith (Ohio State) *Inset:* Pierre Thomas (Illinois)



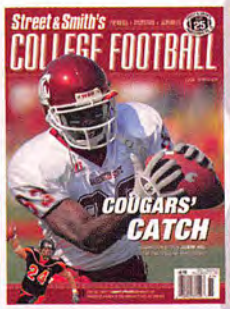
REGION 12
Cover: Chad Henne (Michigan) *Inset:* Brett Bielema (Wisconsin)



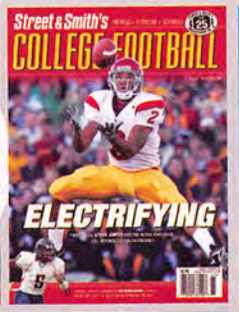
REGION 13
Cover: Rufus Alexander (Oklahoma) *Inset:* Dan Hawkins (Colorado)



REGION 14
Cover: Adam Carriker (Nebraska) *Inset:* Drew Tate (Iowa) and Bret Meyer (Iowa State)



REGION 15
Cover: Jason Hill (Washington State) *Inset:* Sabby Piscitelli (Oregon State)



REGION 16
Cover: Steve Smith (USC) *Inset:* Antoine Cason (Arizona)

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Bears appear primed to knock Southern Cal off its Pac-10 perch

Coach Jeff Tedford has been so good in his four years at Berkeley that the Bears, who were 1-10 before he arrived, now win eight games in a rebuilding year. But Tedford has not been perfect. For instance, consider his timing: it's been terrible. He has turned the Bears into a league-title contender during the same four-year stretch in which Pete Carroll turned USC into a national-title winner.

Had Tedford worked his magic for the Bears during any other stretch in the past 20 years in the Pac-10, he probably would have won the championship.

But the Trojans of 2002-05 were just too good.

Which brings us to 2006—and the opportunity long-suffering Bears fans have been waiting for since Cal's last Rose Bowl appearance, in 1959. Tedford, not Carroll, just might have the team to beat.

"We're a different team this season," Tedford says. "We are a year older after being very young last season. But we need to continue to build team chemistry and gain knowledge and experience. There is a lot of potential in a lot of places."

To get Cal to the top of the standings, Tedford must resolve three issues—the most pressing of which is identifying a starting quarterback. There are four candidates but only two legitimate contenders: sophomore Nate Longshore, who won the job last summer but suffered a season-ending leg injury in the 2005 opener, and senior Joe Ayoob, who replaced the injured Longshore, played well initially, then struggled and was ultimately benched.

While Longshore was not 100 percent for spring practice—he was a step slow because the injury, a broken bone in his lower leg—Ayoob looked more comfortable with Tedford's offense than he did last fall. After the spring game, Tedford announced that Longshore would take the first snap in training camp, but beyond that he couldn't say. Don't be surprised if Ayoob overtakes Longshore, but chances are that both will see significant action during the season.

Longshore is bigger and has a slightly better arm, but Ayoob is more mobile, and that should serve him well in Cal's system. Which brings us to Tedford's second issue: installing a new offense.

OK, it's not totally new. Tedford hired Northwestern Offensive Coordinator Mike Dunbar to incorporate the spread offense. Their plan is to create a hybrid attack that uses both systems to make the most of Cal's talent.

And there's plenty of that. In juniors Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett, Cal has one of the top tailback tandems in the country. Lynch, a potential Heisman candidate with astounding balance, rushed for 1,246 yards last season despite missing all or parts of three games. It was the third-highest rushing total in Cal history. In the Bears' last five games, when Lynch was completely healthy, he rushed for 753 yards and an average of 150.6 per game.

Forsett, who gained 999 yards last year, is a pretty fair backup. He averaged 7.6 yards per rush while filling in for Lynch. And as if that isn't enough, senior Marcus O'Keith is also capable of big plays, having averaged 11 yards on 22 carries last season, including a team-best 71-yard run.

Cal finished ninth nationally in rushing last year, averging 235.3 yards per game. The

Marshawn Lynch, RB

PRESEASON RANK:

1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
8-4	4-4

(beat BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 35-28)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@TENNESSEE	
S.9	Minnesota	
S.16	Portland State	
S.23	Arizona State	
S.30	@OREGON STATE	20-23
O.7	Oregon	20-27 (OT)
O.14	@WASHINGTON STATE	42-38
O.21	Washington	56-17
N.4	UCLA	40-47
N.11	@ARIZONA	28-0
N.18	@USC	10-35
D.2	Stanford	27-3

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Pac-10 title could be on the line. The last time the teams met in the Coliseum, it went to the wire.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/20

OFFENSE		
QB	9	Nate Longshore (6-5, 230, So.)
FB	38	Byron Storer (6-1, 227, Sr.)
RB	10	Marshawn Lynch (5-11, 223, Jr.)
LT	79	Mike Tepper (6-6, 334, So.)
LG	75	Erik Robertson (6-2, 311, Sr.)
C	62	Alex Mack (6-5, 295, So.)
RG	55	Noris Malele (6-4, 298, So.)
RT	52	Scott Smith (6-4, 276, Sr.)
TE	82	Craig Stevens (6-5, 255, Jr.)
WR	11	Robert Jordan (5-11, 166, Jr.)
WR	1	DeSean Jackson (6-0, 160, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	43	Abu Ma'afala (6-4, 281, Sr.)
DT	69	Matthew Malele (6-3, 333, Jr.)
DT	52	Brandon Mebane (6-3, 306, Sr.)
DE	53	Nu'u Tafisi (6-2, 260, Sr.)
OLB	15	Anthony Felder (6-3, 229, So.)
MLB	10	Desmond Bishop (6-2, 243, Sr.)
WLB	1	Worrell Williams (6-0, 257, So.)
CB	13	Daymeion Hughes (6-2, 188, Sr.)
CB	22	Tim Mixon (5-10, 187, Sr.)
FS	5	Thomas DeCoud (6-3, 200, Jr.)
ROV	3	Brandon Hampton (5-10, 187, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	15	Tom Schneider (6-0, 194, Jr.)
P		Andrew Larson (6-1, 190)

Street & Smith's All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Kevin Riley**, QB, 6-2, 200 *Emerged as top prospect in the last year.*
2	**Derrick Hill Jr.**, DL, 6-2, 280 *Promising down lineman from back yard.*
3	**Darian Hagan**, DB, 5-11, 180 *Prep pass thief has nose for the ball.*
4	**James Montgomery**, RB, 6-0, 205 *In-state prep star should contribute.*
5	**Tracy Slocum**, RB, 5-11, 195 *Another touted in-state runner.*

Stadium: California Memorial Stadium (67,537)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Jeff Tedford, 5th year (33-17)
Career record: 33-17
Assistant coaches: Bob Gregory (def. coord.), Ken Delgado (def. line), Bob Foster (LBs), Mike Dunbar (off. coord.), Pete Alamar (TEs/special teams), Ron Gould (RBs), Dan Ferrigno (WRs), Jim Michalczik (Off. line)

PAC-10

Bears have gone four straight seasons with a 1,000-yard rusher.

The Bears are loaded at receiver as well, with sophomore DeSean Jackson—as good a playmaker as there is in the conference—and juniors Robert Jordan and Lavelle Hawkins. Whether it's Longshore or Ayoob behind center, he'll have plenty of places to go with the ball. But will the quarterback have time to throw, and will the tailbacks have lanes to run through?

Tedford's third issue is rebuilding the offensive line. Cal lost four starters, two of whom were all-conference performers: center Marvin Philip and tackle Ryan O'Callaghan. Because of a series of injuries last season, many of the backups received extensive playing time. But are they, as a group, ready to take on the league's best defensive lines?

Sophomore center Alex Mack not only has a new role but a new task: He must snap out of the shotgun when the Bears use the spread. And the likely starter at left tackle, Mike Tepper, missed last season after his leg was run over by a car.

What makes Cal a title contender is not the offense but its defense, which should be the league's best. Seven starters return, including three of the best players at their position in the conference.

Tackle Brandon Mebane, a likely first-round pick in next year's NFL Draft, might be the most dominant physical presence in the league, an interior lineman who requires constant double teams.

"Brandon is a force inside that you can't really address one-on-one," Tedford says. "He can be a dominating factor, no doubt about it. He really helps our linebackers because he draws so much attention."

Mebane will be joined on the line by returning ends Nu'u Tafisi, Abu Ma'afala and Phillip Mbakogu and tackle Matthew Malele.

Middle linebacker Desmond Bishop, a second-team all-league pick, led the Bears with 89 tackles last season. He, too, has talent and experience around him. Sophomores Worrell Williams and Anthony Felder are budding playmakers. On the other side is Mickey Pimentel, who came on strong at the end of last season after transferring from junior college.

Cornerback Daymeion Hughes is also one of the league's best (5 interceptions last season). The other side is in good hands as well, with Tim Mixon. But the Bears must replace both of their starting safeties, which is Defensive Coordinator Bob Gregory's major concern.

"The general thought is that with so many people returning, you can do a lot more on defense," Tedford says. "But I'm not always sure that more is better. I do think that with our returning experience, we can do a good job of eliminating mistakes."

If Cal can solidify its coverage units—and that's a big question, given the way they performed last season—the special teams could be top-notch. Mixon is a talented punt returner, and Tedford has indicated he'll use Jackson in that role as well. Kicker Tom Schneider is back for his junior season.

The schedule features five games against teams that made bowl appearances last season. The Bears must come out of the gate in a hurry, as they open on the road Sept. 2 with Tennessee and then come back home the next week to host Minnesota.

NEXT BIG THING

BRANDON MEBANE, senior defensive tackle

For Brandon Mebane, ambition is a virtue. How else to explain his postgame speech at the Las Vegas Bowl last December?

"Next year, national championship!," the 300-pound defensive tackle told fans while celebrating a win over Brigham Young.

Mebane is sure to do his part in Cal's quest this season, anchoring the defensive line once again after turning in an all-conference performance during 2005.

"He is a dominant player," says Cal Coach Jeff Tedford. "He does a great job for us inside. He constantly demands double-teams and he is a guy you have to game-plan for."

Mebane, a senior from Los Angeles, has proved to be all but unstoppable. As Tedford says, he routinely draws two and three blockers per play.

Despite the constant double- and triple-team attention, Mebane still led the Bears with seven sacks last season. (That total ranked him sixth in the Pac-10 in sacks.) His effort was even more heroic than merely overcoming extra blockers on play after play—Mebane also suffered a midseason ankle injury, but fought through it.

"I just try to stay focused through the game, whether I'm double-teamed or not," he says. "It's something I have to deal with, but if I can [take on two blockers] and free up other guys to make plays, I don't have any problem with that. As long as we get some three-and-outs, I'm happy."

Coaches and other close observers of the Cal program credit Mebane with clogging up the middle and allowing the linebackers free reign to play more aggressively.

"He's a high-motor guy," says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis. "I like him a bunch because he stacks things up. It always takes more than one guy to block him and he creates a lot of push for the defense. That's what you want to see up front."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	CAL	OPP
SCORING	395	254
Points Per Game	32.9	21.2
FIRST DOWNS	251	228
Rushing	135	85
Passing	97	120
Penalty	19	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2823	1430
Yards gained rushing	3076	1759
Yards lost rushing	253	329
Rushing Attempts	483	428
Average Per Rush	5.8	3.3
Average Per Game	235.2	119.2
TDs Rushing	27	15
PASSING YARDAGE	2312	2884
Att-Comp-Int	321-167-17	454-254-15
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.4
Average Per Catch	13.8	11.4
Average Per Game	192.7	240.3
TDs Passing	22	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	5135	4314
Total Plays	804	882
Average Per Play	6.4	4.9
Average Per Game	427.9	359.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	30-598	43-848
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-438	25-320
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-392	17-58
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.9	19.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.6	12.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	26.1	3.4
FUMBLES-LOST	23-10	14-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	69-620	82-670
Average Per Game	51.7	55.8
PUNTS-YARDS	61-2559	80-3148
Average Per Punt	42.0	39.3
Net punt average	36.7	33.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:32	30:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	52/148	74/201
3rd-Down Pct	35%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/9	8/16
4th-Down Pct	56%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-198	23-119
MISC YARDS	9	43
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	53	31
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-16	13-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-52	27-28
ATTENDANCE	402316	283950
Games/Avg Per Game	7/57474	5/56790
Neutral Site Games		0/0

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
California	99	96	85	115	0	395
Opponent	61	67	63	56	7	254

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Joe Ayoob

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	114.13	254-125-14	49.2	1707	15	155.2

Steve Levy

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	150.15	52-32-2	61.5	439	4	73.2

Nate Longshore

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
1	184.58	11-8-1	72.7	131	1	131.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
M. Lynch	10	196	1246	6.4	10	124.6
Justin Forsett	12	132	999	7.6	6	83.2
Marcus O'Keith	10	22	243	11.0	3	24.3

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
D. Jackson	11	38	601	15.8	7	54.6
Robert Jordan	10	34	455	13.4	4	45.5
Lavelle Hawkins	9	18	171	9.5	1	19.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Desmond Bishop	12	62	27	89
Donnie McCleskey	12	52	21	73
Harrison Smith	12	50	22	72

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Brandon Mebane	12	7.0	44
Phillip Mbokogu	11	5.5	30
Mickey Pimentel	12	3.5	31

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Daymeion Hughes	5	159	31.8	1
Tim Mixon	3	47	15.7	0
Harrison Smith	2	39	19.5	0

SOUTHERN CAL TROJANS

NFL Draft losses, offseason turmoil leave Trojans with some unanswered questions–for a change

USC had one of the greatest years of any college football program in history in 2005. It began with a victory over Oklahoma in the BCS Championship Game, continued through a perfect fall and ended with Reggie Bush winning the Heisman Trophy.

But 2006 has not treated the Trojans very well. They blew a 12-point fourth-quarter lead against Texas and lost the Rose Bowl. Then, the man expected to start at quarterback, John David Booty, missed most of spring practice because of a back injury that required surgery. Then came the Bush family housing scandal, followed by quarterback Mark Sanchez getting arrested for sexual assault. At that point, *Street & Smith's* went to press, but it's a good bet that the Trojans found a way to make ignominious headlines through the spring and summer.

Will the summer and fall be any kinder?

Yes, if you assume:

•That Booty gets healthy and emerges as a dependable passer. He does not have to be Matt Leinart for the Trojans to have another terrific season, but he can't make big mistakes in crucial situations.

•That the Trojans find a tailback (or two) to replace Bush and LenDale White.

•That none of the key players miss time due to NCAA violations, legal problems, academic issues or injury.

If all that happens, then, yes, the Trojans could repeat as Pac-10 champs and BCS participants. They have loads of talent, thanks to years of amazing recruiting.

But they return just 11 starters and are so inexperienced at crucial positions that one or two glitches could derail them.

Says one Pac-10 coach: "For the first time in a few years, USC has some real questions. It will be interesting to see what happens there."

Unlike last season, when there were no worthy challengers in the Pac-10, USC has several formidable opponents lying in wait this season—with Cal at the top of the list.

"There's no denying that we lost a lot of outstanding players from the 2005 team, especially on offense," Coach Pete Carroll says. "But this is not an unfamiliar situation for us.

"It has the feel of 2003, when we lost Carson [Palmer] and Troy [Polamalu] and all those running backs. We regrouped and had a real nice season."

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Stafon Johnson**, RB, 6-1, 210 *Could compete soon for playing time.*
2	**Allen Bradford**, LB, 6-0, 230 *Trojans kept top in-state defender home.*
3	**Taylor Mays**, DB/WR, 6-4, 225 *Washington product can play both ways.*
4	**Antwine Perez**, DB, 6-2, 205 *Jersey prep has bright future.*
5	**Vidal Hazelton**, WR, 6-3, 200 *East Coast product is a long-distance receiver.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
12-1	8-0

(lost to Texas in the Rose Bowl, 41-38)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@ARKANSAS	70-17
S.16	Nebraska	
S.23	@ARIZONA	42-21
S.30	@WASHINGTON STATE	55-13
O.7	Washington	51-24
O.14	Arizona State	38-28
O.28	@OREGON STATE	
N.4	@STANFORD	51-21
N.11	Oregon	45-13
N.18	California	35-10
N.25	Notre Dame	34-31
D.2	@UCLA	66-19

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Why? Because it's Notre Dame and USC, and because both teams could be in the top 10–and possibly even the top five–when they collide.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 56/24

OFFENSE		
QB	10	John David Booty (6-3, 195, r-Jr.)
FB	40	Brandon Hancock (6-1, 230, r-Sr.)
TB	37	Ryan Powdrell (6-0, 250, r-Sr.)
LT	79	Sam Baker (6-5, 305, r-Jr.)
LG	53	Jeff Byers (6-3, 300, r-So.)
C	67	Ryan Kalil (6-3, 285, Sr.)
RG	66	Chilo Rachal (6-5, 300, r-So.)
RT	78	Kyle Williams (6-6, 295, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Fred Davis (6-4, 245, Jr.)
SE	8	Dwayne Jarrett (6-5, 210, Jr.)
FL	2	Steve Smith (6-0, 195, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	96	Lawrence Jackson (6-5, 265, r-Jr.)
NT	49	Sedrick Ellis (6-1, 285, r-Jr.)
DT	91	Chris Barrett (6-5, 265, r-Jr.)
DE	84	Kyle Moore (6-7, 265, So.)
SLB	42	Dallas Sartz (6-5, 240, r-Sr.)
MLB	45	Oscar Lua (6-1, 240, r-Sr.)
WLB	55	Keith Rivers (6-3, 220, Jr.)
CB	15	Kevin Thomas (6-1, 190, So.)
CB	28	Terrell Thomas (6-1, 195, r-Jr.)
FS	36	Josh Pinkard (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SS	4	Kevin Ellison (6-1, 220, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	19	Mario Danelo (5-10, 185, r-Jr.)
P	16	Taylor Odegard (5-9, 170, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (92,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: Pete Carroll, 6th year (54-10)
Career record: 54-10
Assistant coaches: Nick Holt, (def. coord./def. line), Lane Kiffin (off. coord./WRs/recruiting coord.), Todd McNair (RBs/special teams coord.), Ken Norton Jr. (LBs), Pat Ruel (off. line), Steve Sarkisian (asst. head coach/QBs), Rocky Seto (secondary), David Watson (def. line)

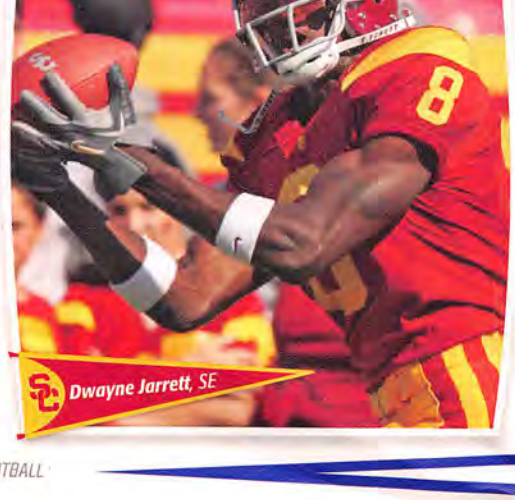
Sure, you could call 12-1 and a share of the national title a "nice season."

This fall, it starts with Booty, a junior and former mega-recruit from Shreveport, La. He attempted 14 passes in 2003, then sat out the 2004 campaign with an elbow injury. Booty played in 10 games last season as Leinart's primary backup, but threw the ball only 42 times. If he isn't up to the challenge, then USC will try Sanchez (assuming legal issues don't prevent him from playing).

Because of the season-ending knee injury suffered by Herschel Dennis, the Trojans broke spring practice unsure of who would take over at tailback for Bush and White, who combined for 45 touchdowns and more than 3,000 rushing yards in '05. In fact, USC was so desperate for a healthy, eligible body that it used converted linebacker Ryan Powdrell at running back. Watch for one of the gifted freshmen—perhaps Stafon Johnson—to get plenty of carries.

There are no concerns at receiver, where the Trojans have one of the top tandems in the country in gamebreakers Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith. They're so deep at the position that Patrick Turner, who was the top-rated receiver in the nation two years ago, probably won't break the starting lineup.

And even though USC lost three starters along the line, it's hardly in bad shape. Left tackle Sam Baker and center Ryan Kalil are back, as is guard Jeff Byers, who started in '04 but missed last season due to injury.



Dwayne Jarrett, SE

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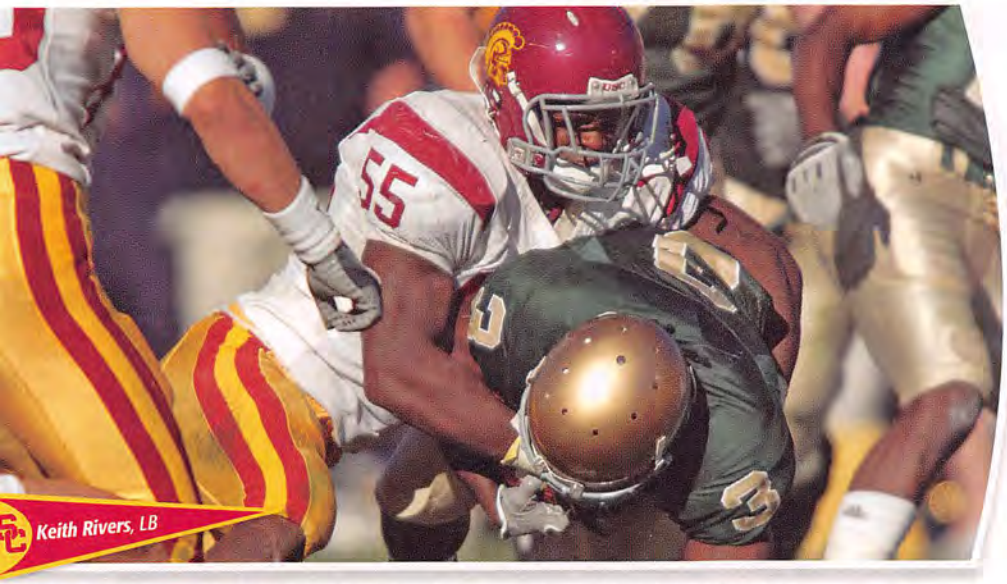


Keith Rivers, LB

It's much the same situation on the defensive line, where two starters (end Lawrence Jackson and tackle Sedrick Ellis) and a slew of talented reserves return. The deepest unit perhaps on the entire team is linebacker. The returnees include Rey Maualuga, Brian Cushing, Keith Rivers, Thomas Williams, Dallas Sartz (injured most of last season) and Oscar Lua.

The Trojans were second in the nation in turnover margin in 2005, but they also allowed their share of big plays. Many came against a secondary that was both inexperienced and injury-riddled. The only returning starter is free safety Josh Pinkard, and the Trojans will have trouble replacing Darnell Bing as their backfield enforcer. Kevin Ellison is the projected starter at strong safety. Kevin Thomas is likely to man one cornerback spot, with Cary Harris and Terrell Thomas competing for the starting job on the other side.

The Trojans lose punter Tom Malone but return kicker Mario Danelo, who attempted just 12 field goals last season because USC scored so many touchdowns (87, if you're scoring at home). And whoever returns punts and kicks won't have the same game-changing ability as his predecessor: Bush.

NEXT BIG THING

REY MAUALUGA, sophomore linebacker

It was an impressive freshman season for Trojans linebacker Rey Maualuga on the field, but a tough and enduring one outside of football.

Maualuga recorded 37 tackles (4.5 for loss), a sack, an interception and two forced fumbles for USC in 2005. The numbers were good enough for a selection on the Freshman All-America Team.

But the 6-3, 250-pound linebacker ran into trouble last November, when he was arrested for suspicion of misdemeanor battery, then later charged. According to the police report, Maualuga punched a USC student at an off-campus party.

Trojans Coach Pete Carroll did not suspend Maualuga for the incident, but did drop him down to the scout team for a week. He offered no excuses for his player, but it should be noted that around the same time of the incident was when Maualuga found out his father, Talatonu, had terminal cancer.

Two days before USC faced Texas in the BCS Championship Game, Talatonu passed away—only two months after the diagnosis. Maualuga stayed with the team and played in the Rose Bowl, on both defense and special teams.

This spring, Maualuga agreed to attend 24 hours of anger management classes, 26 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and perform 100 hours of community service as part of an arraignment diversion program as a resolution of the charges.

With his problems behind him, Maualuga impressed in spring ball and is challenging middle linebacker Oscar Lua (who led the Trojans in tackles last season) for a starting spot.

"We're real excited about Rey's development," Carroll told *The Los Angeles Times*. "He's very comfortable now in the [MLB] spot … he needs to play a lot for this football team."

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	USC	OPP
SCORING	638	297
Points Per Game	49.1	22.8
FIRST DOWNS	376	265
Rushing	173	97
Passing	179	148
Penalty	24	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	3380	1697
Yards gained rushing	3598	2045
Yards lost rushing	218	348
Rushing Attempts	525	444
Average Per Rush	6.4	3.8
Average Per Game	260.0	130.5
TDs Rushing	51	17
PASSING YARDAGE	4157	2995
Att-Comp-Int	481-312-10	452-270-22
Average Per Pass	8.6	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.1
Average Per Game	319.8	230.4
TDs Passing	32	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	7537	4692
Total Plays	1006	896
Average Per Play	7.5	5.2
Average Per Game	579.8	360.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	43-929	65-1370
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-190	22-373
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-232	10-204
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	21.3	20.8
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	8.6	17.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.6	20.4
FUMBLES-LOST	19-7	35-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	93-827	72-574
Average Per Game	62.5	44.2
PUNTS-YARDS	33-1373	61-2515
Average Per Punt	41.6	41.2
Net punt average	29.1	36.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:58	29:02
3RD-DOWN CONV.	92/167	65/178
3rd-Down Pct	55%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	18/30	12/24
4th-Down Pct	60%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-193	18-106
MISC YARDS	69	14
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	87	38
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	11-12	11-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	83-86	34-37
ATTENDANCE	544872	398707
Games/Avg Per Game	6/90812	6/66451
Neutral Site Games		1/93986

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
USC	153	145	178	162	638
Opponents	67	84	42	104	297

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Matt Leinart

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	157.74	431-283-8	65.7	3815	28	293.5

J.D. Booty

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
10	143.73	42-27-2	64.3	327	3	32.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Reggie Bush	13	200	1740	8.7	16	133.8
LenDale White	13	197	1302	6.6	24	100.2
Desmond Reed	6	19	137	7.2	1	22.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dwayne Jarrett	13	91	1274	14.0	16	98.0
Steve Smith	13	60	957	15.9	5	73.6
Reggie Bush	13	37	478	12.9	2	36.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Oscar Lua	12	38	28	66
Frostee Rucker	13	35	21	56
Collin Ashton	13	30	24	54

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
L. Jackson	13	10.0	60
Frostee Rucker	13	6.5	45
Sedrick Ellis	13	4.5	26

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Darnell Bing	4	119	29.8	1
Josh Pinkard	2	21	10.5	0
Ryan Ting	2	3	1.5	0

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

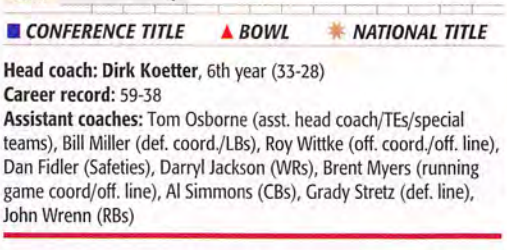
OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
7-5	4-4

(beat Rutgers in the Insight Bowl, 23-20)

Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✳ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dirk Koetter, 6th year (33-28)
Career record: 59-38
Assistant coaches: Tom Osborne (asst. head coach/TEs/special teams), Bill Miller (def. coord./LBs), Roy Wittke (off. coord./off. line), Dan Fidler (Safeties), Darryl Jackson (WRs), Brent Myers (running game coord/off. line), Al Simmons (CBs), Grady Stretz (def. line), John Wrenn (RBs)

Sun Devils will go as far as their super-explosive offense takes them

So it seems the gunslinger holds the wild card. In the pass-happy Pac-10, no coach enjoys the aerial attack more than Arizona State's Dirk Koetter. He has a creative mind, a dynamic system and appears frustrated when the Sun Devils have to run the ball or play defense. Given a choice, it seems Koetter would prefer to throw 60 times a game and run it twice.

And he has the means to do it, possessing what might be the best quarterback tandem in the country in senior Sam Keller and sophomore Rudy Carpenter. Their presence—plus Koetter's scheme, a veteran offensive line and playmakers at the skill positions—means the Sun Devils will pile on the points. ASU also has history on its side. This is the 10th and 20th anniversary of their only two Pac-10 titles.

There are two questions with the Sun Devils, and neither is new. Do they have the fortitude to play consistently well for 12 games? (They've been prone to midseason slumps under Koetter.) And will the defense be tough enough against the best the Pac-10 has to offer?

If the unit plays well, the Sun Devils will challenge for the conference title. If it doesn't, then ASU could finish in the middle of the pack. And last year, it didn't, allowing a league-worst 468.8 yards per game.

"The best way to improve our defense is to re-establish ourselves as being fundamentally sound," Koetter says. "We were not satisfied with how our defense ranked last season."

He does not have similar concerns about the offense. The Devils are so loaded at quarterback that the nation's No. 1 passer last season, Carpenter, whose efficiency rating was 175.01, is not first on the depth chart. That's because Koetter has a policy that players can't lose their job due to injury. Keller was headed for a sensational year (20 touchdowns in eight games) until he suffered a season-ending thumb injury. Carpenter jumped in and led ASU to a 4-1 record, albeit against lesser competition than Keller faced.

Keller is the No. 1 quarterback heading into training camp. Assuming he plays well, he'll start the opener against Northern Arizona.

"Both [quarterbacks] saw extensive reps in the spring," Koetter says. "I do not foresee us utilizing a two-quarterback system down the road, but I will never close the door to anything."

In front of Keller and Carpenter is an offensive line that was rocked by injuries last season but returns seven of the nine players who started games.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Jermaine Williams**, DE, 6-4, 255 *Potential to be special defender.*
2	**John Hargis**, OL, 6-3, 285 *All-state player with potential.*
3	**Dane Guthrie**, TE, 6-2, 256 *Florida transfer could see playing time.*
4	**Martin Tevaseu**, OL, 6-3, 320 *Junior-college product should play early.*
5	**Alex Fa'agai**, DL, 6-3, 286 *Junior-college veteran ready to contribute now.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Northern Arizona	
S.9	Nevada	
S.16	@COLORADO	
S. 23	@ CALIFORNIA	
S.30	Oregon	17-31
O.14	@USC	28-38
O.21	Stanford	35-45
O.28	@WASHINGTON	44-20
N.4	@OREGON STATE	42-24
N.11	Washington State	27-24
N.18	UCLA	35-45
N.25	@ARIZONA	23-20

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The winner of this early-season showdown becomes USC's prime competition for the conference title.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/19

OFFENSE		
QB	9	Sam Keller (6-4, 240, Sr.)
HB	87	Brent Miller (6-5, 236, Jr.)
TB	24	Keegan Herring (5-10, 190, So.)
LT	62	Brandon Rodd (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	66	Stephen Berg (6-5, 309, Sr.)
C	76	Mike Pollak (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RG	78	Zach Krula (6-7, 339, Sr.)
RT	52	Andrew Carnahan (6-8, 300, Sr.)
TE	86	Zach Miller (6-5, 258, Jr.)
WR	17	Terry Richardson (6-1, 187, Sr.)
WR	3	Rudy Burgess (5-10, 181, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	66	Loren Howard (6-4, 280, Sr.)
DT	77	Michael Marquardt (6-4, 288, Jr.)
DT	1	Jordan Hill (6-2, 298, Sr.)
DE	50	Kyle Caldwell (6-3, 261, Sr.)
SAM	48	Chad Lindsey (6-0, 212, So.)
MKE	51	Beau Manutai (6-1, 262, Sr.)
WIL	29	Robert James (5-11, 225, Jr.)
CB	8	Keno Walter-White (5-11, 182, Sr.)
CB	21	Chad Green (5-10, 190, Jr.)
S	19	Josh Barrett (6-2, 220, Jr.)
S	5	Zach Catanese (6-2, 219, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	20	Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 220, Sr.)
P	20	Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 220, Sr.)

The best is right tackle Andrew Carnahan, an honorable-mention all-league pick last season.

Behind Keller and Carpenter is sophomore tailback Keegan Herring, who set a school rookie record with 870 yards last year. He's small (190 pounds), quick and knows how to hide behind offensive linemen. The power runner is 216-pound sophomore Shaun DeWitty.

To the left and right of Keller and Carpenter is a gifted set of pass catchers. Tight end Zach Miller is one of the best in the country.

Do-everything junior Rudy Burgess is a threat out wide or lined up in the backfield (he also plays cornerback). And sophomore receiver Mike Jones was the story of spring practice.

There's only one question: the status of Terry Richardson, the top returning receiver and the man ASU is counting on to replace Derek Hagan. Richardson was suspended from spring practice for violating team rules. He has work to do—both in the classroom and out—to be allowed back for training camp.

If he doesn't return, it will be a major blow to ASU's title chances.

Defensively, the Sun Devils must replace their two best players—linebackers Dale Robinson, the league's co-Defensive Player of the Year, and Jamar Williams, a three-year starter. Senior Beau Manutai is in line to take over for Robinson in the middle of the defense, while returning starter

Sam Keller, QB

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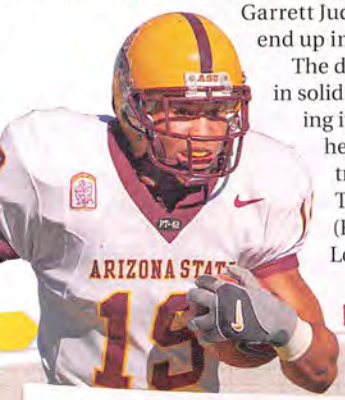
PAC-10

Zach Miller, TE

Robert James is expected to hold down the weakside. The front-runner for the strongside is sophomore Chad Lindsey, but ASU has brought in a slew of newcomers to help fill the positions. At least one of them—the best bet is juco transfer Garrett Judah—might end up in the lineup.



The defensive line is in solid shape, assuming it can stay healthy. Three transfers—Tranell Morant (Florida), Loren Howard (Northwestern) and Michael Marquardt (BYU)—join returnees Kyle Caldwell and Jordan Hill to give the Sun Devils a solid core.

The do-it-all Burgess could end up starting at cornerback, which is a potentially troublesome position. The same could be said of safety if inconsistent junior Josh Barrett doesn't play to his potential. The Devils are in good shape at strong safety with senior Zach Catanese.

The special teams have the potential to be special if Richardson, a first-rate return man, is allowed back from suspension. Senior kicker Jesse Ainsworth didn't get much work last season because the Devils scored so many touchdowns, but he was nine-for-nine inside 40 yards.

NEXT BIG THING

JOSH BARRETT, junior safety

What a difference a healthy offseason makes. Josh Barrett suffered season-ending shoulder injuries two straight years, enduring surgery and extensive rehab programs that killed his offseason conditioning.

Not this year. Barrett, a junior safety, enters the 2006 campaign fresh off one of the best spring performances of anyone on the Arizona State roster. The difference is startling—not only to Barrett, but to his coaches as well.

"Coming off two consecutive surgeries, it's hard for your body," Barrett says. "You don't have the edge of playing spring ball and really learning the defense and knowing your responsibilities inside and out. But I learned a lot from the [injuries]. Things happen for a reason."

Sun Devils Coach Dirk Koetter says Barrett, like most players, struggled with doubts during the frequent convalescences and monotonous rehabilitation programs.

With a strong finish to the 2005 season, coupled with the superlative spring, Barrett became a new player, one Koetter anticipates will turn in big performances in Tempe this fall.

"His confidence started rising and he just blew up," Koetter says. "All that potential and all that talent started showing up all over the place. We all did triple takes watching him."

The gawking began with dash drills: Barrett demonstrated blazing speed and instantly asserted himself as one of the fastest players on the team. During spring practice, Koetter and his assistants noticed one player kept coming up again and again during film-study sessions at the end of each day.

"Josh did two or three things a practice that made us all say wow," Koetter says. "[The coaches] were all saying, 'Did you see that burst? Did you see that hit?'"

Once considered a possible starter, Barrett was a lock by the end of spring. He will be paired with standout Zach Catanese, who finished fourth in the Pac-10 last season with 107 tackles. Catanese supplanted Barrett for a starting job in 2005; now they will both be starters.

With good size (6-2, 220 pounds) and stellar speed, Barrett is ideal for Arizona State's defensive strategy, says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst.

"They like those guys to be involved covering the run and the pass in a big way," Davis says. "With a defense like that, if you have a guy like Barrett—a bigger guy, who can deliver a blow but also has that speed—then life is good."

—Erik Spanberg

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	ASU	OPP
SCORING	442	359
Points Per Game	36.8	29.9
FIRST DOWNS	313	287
Rushing	93	111
Passing	201	143
Penalty	19	33
RUSHING YARDAGE	1748	2157
Yards gained rushing	2080	2487
Yards lost rushing	332	330
Rushing Attempts	447	493
Average Per Rush	3.9	4.4
Average Per Game	145.7	179.8
TDs Rushing	18	20
PASSING YARDAGE	4481	3468
Att-Comp-Int	493-312-11	413-246-12
Average Per Pass	9.1	8.4
Average Per Catch	14.4	14.1
Average Per Game	373.4	289.0
TDs Passing	38	21
TOTAL OFFENSE	6229	5625
Total Plays	940	906
Average Per Play	6.6	6.2
Average Per Game	519.1	468.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	36-885	29-605
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-389	22-287
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-124	11-100
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.6	20.9
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	15.0	13.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.3	9.1
FUMBLES-LOST	19-9	27-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	114-982	80-666
Average Per Game	81.8	55.5
PUNTS-YARDS	58-2146	50-2117
Average Per Punt	37.0	42.3
Net punt average	30.3	32.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:50	30:10
3RD-DOWN CONV.	80/172	68/170
3rd-Down Pct	47%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/17	9/21
4th-Down Pct	53%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	22-147	36-222
MISC YARDS	29	3
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	59	44
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	9-11	16-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	53-53	43-43
ATTENDANCE	428096	189122
Games/Avg Per Game	7/61157	4/47280
Neutral Site Games		1/43536

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Arizona State	106	120	94	122	442
Opponents	72	97	93	97	359

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Sam Keller

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	145.78	264-155-9	58.7	2165	20	270.6

Rudy Carpenter

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	175.01	228-156-2	68.4	2273	17	252.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
K. Herring	12	158	870	5.5	6	72.5
Rudy Burgess	12	145	644	4.4	6	53.7
Preston Jones	7	39	187	4.8	2	26.7

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Derek Hagan	12	77	1210	15.7	8	100.8
Rudy Burgess	12	59	655	11.1	4	54.6
Zach Miller	10	38	476	12.5	4	47.6

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Dale Robinson	12	74	41	115
Zach Catanese	12	62	45	107
Jamar Williams	11	48	22	70

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
DeWayne Hollyfield	10	5.5	38
Dale Robinson	12	4.0	25
Jamar Williams	11	2.0	15

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jamar Williams	3	22	7.3	0
Josh Golden	2	63	31.5	1
Derron Ware	1	20	20.0	0

OREGON DUCKS

Jonathan Stewart, TB

PAC-10

Ultra-athletic running back Stewart should give Ducks fans plenty to quack about this season

Sophomore tailback Jonathan Stewart is more than the face of the Oregon Ducks this season. He's more than the biceps, quadriceps and abdominals, too. The 5-foot-11 Stewart—who reportedly bench presses 410 pounds and has run the 40-yard dash in 4.34 seconds—is Oregon football this season. His talent and potential mirror the team's talent and potential.

If all goes right, the Ducks could challenge for the conference title. Or they could stumble out of the gate—the early-season schedule is difficult—and finish in the middle of the pack. Whatever happens, it should be fun to watch.

The Ducks are nothing if not entertaining under Coach Mike Bellotti. Last season, Oregon's first using the spread offense, it produced 34.5 points a game, averaged more than 300 yards through the air and went to the wire with Fresno State, Arizona, Cal, Washington State and Oklahoma. To the delight of the faithful in Eugene, the Ducks won 10 games, finished second in the conference and nearly qualified for the Bowl Championship Series.

But as those same fans will point out, the Ducks haven't been a model of consistency in recent years. In fact, they have not won eight games in back-to-back years since Offensive Coordinator Jeff Tedford departed for Cal following the 2001 season. They have a golden chance this fall—and not only because the NCAA added a 12th game.

The Ducks have six starters back on defense, seven on offense and are in their second year of the spread offense. But their success (or failure) starts with Stewart, who was the third-ranked prep tailback in the country in 2004. All he did last fall was touch the ball 72 times and score nine touchdowns. (He also led the nation in kickoff returns with a 33.7-yard average.) After a

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Jeremy Gibbs**, DL, 6-2, 280 *One of nine junior-college recruits.*
2	**Matthew Harper**, DB, 6-0, 177 *California product has credentials.*
3	**Micah Howeth**, DE, 6-3, 245 *Solid junior-college prospect.*
4	**Ryan Mattice**, WR, 6-3, 200 *Ex-prep QB is versatile athlete.*
5	**Nathan Costa**, QB, 6-1, 196 *Top prep prospect in recruiting class.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
10-2	7-1

(lost to Oklahoma in the Holiday Bowl, 17-14)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Stanford	44-20
S.9	@FRESNO STATE	37-34
S.16	Oklahoma	
S.30	@ARIZONA STATE	31-17
O.7	@CALIFORNIA	27-20 (OT)
O.14	UCLA	
O.21	@WASHINGTON STATE	34-31
O.28	Portland State	
N.4	Washington	45-21
N.11	@USC	13-45
N.18	Arizona	28-21
N.25	@OREGON STATE	56-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

A rematch of last year's Holiday Bowl gives the Ducks a chance to exact revenge and get a big win.

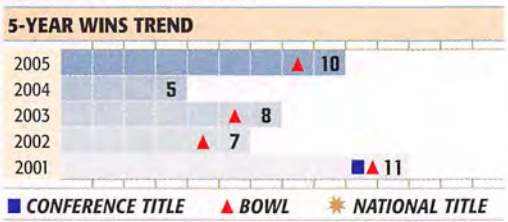
PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/16

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Dennis Dixon (6-4, 196, Jr.)
TB	28	Jonathan Stewart (5-11, 234, So.)
HB	82	Dan Kause (6-4, 252, Sr.)
LT	60	Max Unger (6-5, 296, So.)
LG	61	Josh Tschirgi (6-4, 311, Jr.)
C	55	Enoka Lucas (6-4, 299, Sr.)
RG	77	Palauni Ma Sun (6-6, 335, Sr.)
RT	75	Geoff Schwartz (6-7, 359, Jr.)
TE	44	Dante Rosario (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	3	Cameron Colvin (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	18	James Finley (6-2, 204, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	45	Matt Toeaina (6-3, 301, Sr.)
LT	97	Cole Linehan (6-4, 295, So.)
RT	90	David Faaeteete (6-2, 307, Jr.)
RE	95	Darius Sanders (6-5, 269, Sr.)
LB	33	Blair Phillips (6-2, 246, Sr.)
LB	42	Brent Haberly (6-0, 228, Sr.)
ROV	15	Patrick Chung (5-11, 205, So.)
LCB	8	Jackie Bates (5-10, 180, Jr.)
RCB	31	Jameel Dowling (6-2, 184, Jr.)
FS	28	J.D. Nelson (5-11, 219, Sr.)
SS	48	Jon Pope (6-1, 223, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	36	Paul Martinez (6-2, 210, Sr.)
P	14	Matt Dragich (6-1, 213, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Autzen Stadium (54,000)



Head coach: Mike Bellotti, 12th year (90-42)
Career record: 111-67-2
Assistant coaches: Neal Zoumboukos (asst. head coach/TEs), Nick Aliotti (def. coord.), Gary Campbell (RBs), Robin Pflugrad (WRs), Steve Greatwood (off. line), John Neal (secondary), Don Pellum (LBs), Michael Gray (def. line), Gary Crowton (off. coord.)

Enoka Lucas, C

TOP TO BOTTOM: SOL NEELMAN / ICON SMI; G. NEWMAN / OWIMAGE / WIDE IMAGE.COM; WILLIAM COUNTON GOODYEAR 2004; [illegible]

productive offseason, Stewart is ready to replace Terrence Whitehead as the Ducks' primary tailback. He has the potential to challenge Cal's Marshawn Lynch as the league's best given that Oregon returns all five starters along its offensive line, including second-team all-league center Enoka Lucas.

If the line does its job and Stewart does his, things should be much easier for the new quarterback. Junior Dennis Dixon is the favorite to replace Kellen Clemens, but he'll get plenty of competition from junior Brady Leaf, the brother of former San Diego Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf. Dixon played well last season after Clemens went down with an ankle injury, and he's more mobile than Leaf, which fits better into the Ducks' spread attack.

In addition to replacing Clemens and Whitehead, Oregon must offset the loss of receiver Demetrius Williams, who averaged 17.9 yards per catch last season and scored 10 touchdowns. Although he lacked elite speed, Williams was able to stretch defenses consistently. That chore falls to either James Finley or Cameron Colvin, who were solid complementary receivers in '05 but must assume greater responsibility this fall.

Oregon faces similar challenges on defense, with a solid core returning but several big departures to overcome. The biggest, of course, is that of 338-pound tackle Haloti Ngata, a first-round NFL pick who was arguably the nation's best interior defensive lineman. Oregon also lost end Devan Long, who had 14 tackles for loss; outside linebacker Anthony Trucks, who led the conference in sacks, fumbles forced and tackles for loss; and starting cornerbacks Aaron Gipson and Justin Phinisee. If you're keeping score at home, that's five playmakers whose absence will weigh heavily.

A bevy of underclassmen will attempt to fortify the line. David Faaeteete, a 307-pound junior, and sophomore Cole Linehan are the best bets to emerge as consistent run-stoppers. Senior Matt Toeaina, who started at tackle last season, is expected to move to end to replace Long.

The linebacking unit is in decent shape, thanks to the return of starters Brent Haberly and Blair Phillips, and Patrick Chung is back to man the rover position. But there is no obvious candidate to replace Trucks, who was part-outside linebacker, part-strong safety, and the situation at cornerback is all guesswork. Jackie Bates, Walter Thurmond and Jameel Dowling, a junior-college transfer, will contend for playing time.

At least Bellotti doesn't have to fret about free safety. The position is in good hands with senior J.D. Nelson, a second-team all-league pick and the son of former Stanford star Darrin Nelson.

Oregon has one of the top placekickers in the league in senior Paul Martinez, who made 19 of 24 field goals last season. But the success of the special teams depends in part on whether the Ducks use Stewart as a kickoff returner. He's a threat to score each time he touches the ball. But they may decide the risk is too great.

NEXT BIG THING

J.D. NELSON, senior free safety

Coach Mike Bellotti has a few words for his defense as the Ducks prepare for the 2006 season. Oregon enters the year with questions on the offensive side of the ball—most notably at quarterback—and he needs his defense to carry the team.

That would be especially true early in the year when Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf will battle for the No. 1 signal-caller position. It's likely that the offense could take a few games to hit on all cylinders.

The defense, which should be led by senior free safety J.D. Nelson, needs to be up and running at full speed when the Ducks start the season and the Pac-10 race Sept. 2 against Stanford in Eugene.

Nelson moves like a missile at 5-11 and 219 pounds and is a big-time finisher in the secondary. He's the kind of player who causes receivers to have some uneasy nights prior to the game because he is such a forceful hitter. He appears to be something of a target for opposing quarterbacks and receivers because he is somewhat on the short side—but the force of his tackling ability quickly changes that strategy.

Nelson finished the 2005 season with 64 tackles, five passes defended, one forced fumble and one interception. Those are good, but not great, numbers and Nelson was slowed in the early season by a knee problem.

Nelson missed spring football again this year, but it is clear that he has stepped up his game and will be one of the foundation players for Bellotti. He is a better than even-money selection to finish as a first-team performer on the All-Pac-10 Team.

"I see our secondary as being our biggest area of strength," Oregon Defensive Coordinator Nick Aliotti says. "They're going to have to do the job if we are going to be successful this season."

Nelson may be the best of that group—and could have a slew of postseason honors by the end of the year.

—Steve Silverman

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OREGON	OPP
SCORING	414	278
Points Per Game	34.5	23.2
FIRST DOWNS	270	230
Rushing	80	86
Passing	164	120
Penalty	26	24
RUSHING YARDAGE	1612	1607
Yards gained rushing	1875	1957
Yards lost rushing	263	350
Rushing Attempts	427	407
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.9
Average Per Game	134.3	133.9
TDs Rushing	16	12
PASSING YARDAGE	3654	2685
Att-Comp-Int	482-303-10	443-252-23
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.1
Average Per Catch	12.1	10.7
Average Per Game	304.5	223.8
TDs Passing	28	22
TOTAL OFFENSE	5266	4292
Total Plays	909	850
Average Per Play	5.8	5.0
Average Per Game	438.8	357.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	42-1035	61-1366
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-360	21-223
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-383	10-105
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	24.6	22.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	11.2	10.6
INT RETURN AVERAGE	16.7	10.5
FUMBLES-LOST	19-9	19-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	96-868	110-973
Average Per Game	72.3	81.1
PUNTS-YARDS	50-1832	70-2662
Average Per Punt	36.6	38.0
Net punt average	32.2	32.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:26	30:34
3RD-DOWN CONV.	80/191	66/183
3rd-Down Pct	42%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/19	8/21
4th-Down Pct	53%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-212	20-105
MISC YARDS	37	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	49	35
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-33	11-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-43	35-35
ATTENDANCE	350602	186107
Games/Avg Per Game	6/58434	5/37221
Neutral Site Games		1/65416

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oregon	109	99	122	77	7	414
Opponents	68	65	83	62	0	278

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kellen Clemens

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
8	152.87	289-185-4	64.0	2406	19	300.8

Dennis Dixon

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	142.37	104-69-3	66.3	777	6	70.6

Brady Leaf

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	111.13	82-48-3	58.5	467	3	38.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
T. Whitehead	11	156	679	4.4	4	61.7
Kellen Clemens	8	69	228	3.3	0	28.5
J. Stewart	10	53	188	3.5	6	18.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
D. Williams	12	59	1059	17.9	10	88.2
James Finley	12	57	571	10.0	2	47.6
T. Whitehead	11	52	490	9.4	4	44.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Anthony Trucks	12	62	37	99
Patrick Chung	12	58	33	91
Justin Phinisee	12	53	13	66

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Anthony Trucks	12	11.0	60
Devan Long	10	5.0	31
Haloti Ngata	12	3.0	20

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Aaron Gipson	7	117	16.7	1
Justin Phinisee	4	206	51.5	0
Rodney Woods	3	2	0.7	0

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
5-6	3-5

Stadium: Reser Stadium (43,300)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	■	5
2004	▲	7
2003	▲	8
2002	▲	8
2001	■	5

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mike Riley, 6th year (28-30)
Career record: 28-30
Assistant coaches: Danny Langsdorf (off. coord./QBs), Mark Banker (def. coord./secondary), Bruce Read (special teams), Greg Newhouse (LBs), Jim Gilstrap (RBs), Lee Hull (WRs), Joe Seumalo (def. line), Nigel Burton (CBs), Mike Cavanaugh (asst. head coach/off. line)

Can talented Beavers stay disciplined and realize their considerable potential?

Let's forget the name of the school for a minute and focus solely on the returning talent: a senior quarterback, the No. 9 rusher in the country, five starters on the offensive line, one of the league's best tight ends, an elite placekicker and every starter in the secondary.

That combination would usually result in the team being picked to win the conference title, or at least to finish in the top three.

But, alas, we are talking about Oregon State, not USC or Cal, and the assumption is that OSU's talent doesn't stack up with the league's best. But there's another reason to be skeptical of the Beavers, who are coming off a 5-6 season in which they lost four of their last five games. During Coach Mike Riley's tenure, they have had a tendency to self-destruct with turnovers, penalties and a general lack of discipline both on and off the field. (OSU is king of the 15-yard personal foul.)

So are we to judge the Beavers by what they have back (16 starters), or by their spotty execution of recent years? Let's split the difference and pick them fifth. For all their experience, it's hard to see the Beavers winning the conference. At the same time, they're talented enough to overcome the inevitable mistakes. (One caveat: If for some reason OSU plays with the discipline it has lacked of late, the Beavers just might challenge for the title.)

No one typifies the two faces of OSU better than quarterback Matt Moore, the UCLA transfer. He spent most of last fall getting comfortable in Riley's system, throwing 11 touchdowns and 19 interceptions. If he reverses those numbers, the Beavers could do some damage.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Gabe Miller**, TE, 6-3, 220 *Two-way standout can play linebacker.*
2	**Gerard Lee**, DL, 6-3, 276 *Junior-college product should help.*
3	**Kyle Loomis**, P, 6-3, 185 *Top prep punter adds special-teams weapon.*
4	**Coye Francies**, DB, 6-1, 190 *Talented juco might play early.*
5	**Dorian Smith**, DE, 6-3, 250 *Californian bolsters DL recruits.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	Eastern Washington	
S.7	@BOISE STATE	30-27
S.23	Idaho	
S.30	California	23-20
O.7	Washington State	44-33
O.14	@WASHINGTON	18-10
O. 21	**@ ARIZONA**	**27-29**
O.28	USC	
N.4	Arizona State	24-42
N.11	@UCLA	28-51
N.18	@STANFORD	17-20
N.25	Oregon	14-56
D.2	@HAWAII	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★
Might be a must-win game before the Beavers embark on a brutal stretch run that starts with USC and Arizona State.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/13

OFFENSE		
QB	8	Matt Moore (6-4, 193, Sr.)
TB	26	Yvenson Bernard (5-9, 202, Jr.)
LT	61	Adam Koets (6-6, 299, Sr.)
LG	62	Jeremy Perry (6-2, 313, So.)
C	75	Kyle DeVan (6-2, 296, Jr.)
RG	67	Roy Schuening (6-4, 315, Jr.)
RT	69	Josh Linehan (6-5, 315, Sr.)
TE	89	Joe Newton (6-7, 252, Sr.)
SE	19	Sammie Stroughter (6-0, 183, Jr.)
SL	17	A. Wheat-Brown (6-1, 223, Jr.)
FL	80	Zach Tarver (6-5, 216, So.)
DEFENSE		
LE	27	Joe Lemma (6-3, 257, Sr.)
LT	97	Ben Siegert (6-4, 294, Sr.)
RT	98	Curtis Coker (6-1, 307, Jr.)
RE	49	Jeff Van Orsow (6-4, 267, Jr.)
SLB	45	Derrick Doggett (6-3, 208, Jr.)
MLB	42	Andy Darkins (6-2, 233, Jr.)
WLB	12	Isaiah Cooh (6-2, 216, So.)
LCB	6	Keenan Lewis (6-1, 191, So.)
RCB	36	Brandon Hughes (5-11, 178, So.)
FS	9	Al Afalava (5-11, 198, So.)
SS	24	Sabby Piscitelli (6-3, 226, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	13	Alexis Serna (5-8, 162, Jr.)
P	32	Jon Strowbridge (6-2,156, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

"For a first-year quarterback, which is what he was for us, I thought he did a really good job," Riley says. "Before he got hurt [late in the year], he was on track to break the production record. Unfortunately, he was also on track to break the interception record, and we've got to get rid of that."

Moore should have plenty of time to throw. All five starters return to the offensive line, including two juniors (center Kyle DeVan and guard Roy Schuening) and a sophomore (guard Jeremy Perry) who were named honorable-mention all-league.

The man expected to run through the holes they create is tailback Yvenson Bernard, a junior from Boca Raton, Fla., who averaged 120.1 rushing yards per game last season, ninth best in the country.

The key loss on offense is receiver Mike Hass, a former walk-on who had 90 catches and won the 2005 Biletnikoff Award. At the same time, OSU welcomes back 6-7 tight end Joe Newton, who suffered a season-ending knee injury hours before the first practice of training camp last year.

Newton's absence devastated the program; he would have been one of the top tight ends in the conference.

"Besides just being a fabulous player, he is a great team guy," Riley says. "He will most certainly add some stability to our offense."

The only stability on the other side of the ball is in the secondary. Given the pass-happy nature of the Pac-10, that's not a bad place to cluster your returning players. The leader of the group is strong safety Sabby Piscitelli. He'll be working with a pair of sophomore cornerbacks, Brandon Hughes and Keenan Lewis, who started as freshmen and got roughed up a bit. (The Beavers allowed 299 passing yards per game last fall.)

For Defensive Coordinator Mark Banker, who quietly does his job as well as anyone in the conference, the area of concern is up the middle. The Beavers lost their starting tackles (Alvin Smith and Sir Henry Anderson) and two first-team all-conference linebackers (Keith Ellison and Trent Bray).

That doesn't mean the front seven is completely new. Ends Joe Lemma and Jeff Van Orsow return, as does middle linebacker Andy Darkins. But it's unlikely the Beavers will lead the conference in rushing defense again.

In close games, OSU will have an advantage over every team in the conference: kicker Alexis Serna is the best there is. All he did last season was connect on 23 of 28 field goals, with a long of 47.

UCLA BRUINS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	PAC-10:
10-2	6-2

(beat Northwestern in the Sun Bowl, 50-38)

'Lucky' Bruins of '05 lost too much firepower on offense to be taken seriously as contender for 2006

Sure, sixth place might seem low for the Bruins. After all, they won 10 games last season, finished 16th in the *Associated Press* poll and averaged 39.1 points per game. They might be a Top 25 team when the first poll is released in August, and a soft early schedule could have them undefeated in mid-October.

But ask yourself this: Were the Bruins really one of the best 20 or so teams in the country last season? It says here that they were not. In fact, they weren't even close. Good teams don't need fourth-quarter rallies to beat bad teams week after week, as the Bruins did. Good teams don't lose 52-14 to lowly Arizona, as the Bruins did. Good teams don't allow 233 rushing yards per game. Or surrender 40 or more points four times.

The Bruins weren't good, but they had two very good players and they were lucky. They probably won't get that lucky again, and they definitely won't have the services of the playmakers, tailback Maurice Drew and quarterback Drew Olson, who combined for 55 touchdowns—all of which seemed to come in the fourth quarter.

So, really, UCLA was a 10-2 team that was ridiculously close to being a 6-5 team that lost its best players and its offensive coordinator, Tom Cable, who left for the NFL. Plus, the Bruins have to find a quarterback, learn a new defense and navigate a brutal late-season schedule. In other words, sixth place looks about right.

Let's start at quarterback. The front-runner is sophomore Ben Olson, who was the top-rated prep passer in the country back in the 1990s. OK, that's an exaggeration—but not much of one. Olson was, in fact, the top quarterback recruit in the fall of '01, signed with BYU, went on a mission, came back, transferred to UCLA and threw just four passes last season.

What does it mean? Only that—assuming Olson beats out sophomore Pat Cowan for the starting job—the Bruins will be relying on a quarterback who essentially hasn't played in five years.

"Ben has worked extremely hard to get ready for this opportunity," Bruins Coach Karl Dorrell says. "Even though his game time is limited, it was vital that he get back into action last season and begin the process of believing in himself."

Olson will be working behind an offensive line that returns one of the top guards in the conference, junior Shannon Tevaga, and a veteran tackle, Brian Abraham. But the other side—the weak-side—is dominated by freshmen and sophomores. And senior J.J. Hair, the presumptive starter at tight end, doesn't come close to possessing the talent of his predecessor, Marcedes Lewis, who led the Bruins with 58 catches last season.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Utah	
S.9	Rice	63-21
S.23	@WASHINGTON	21-17
S.30	Stanford	30-27 (OT)
O.7	Arizona	14-52
O. 14	**@ OREGON**	
O.21	@NOTRE DAME	
O.28	Washington State	44-41 (OT)
N.4	@CALIFORNIA	47-40
N.11	Oregon State	51-28
N.18	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
D.2	USC	19-66

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Soft early schedule means Bruins could be 5-0 heading into Eugene for a game that will show whether they're legit.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/15

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Ben Olson (6-5, 227, So.)
FB	32	Michael Pitre (5-11, 240, Jr.)
TB	28	Chris Markey (5-11, 203, Jr.)
WG	60	Chris Joseph (6-4, 290, Jr.)
WT	75	Nick Ekbatani (6-5, 280, So.)
C	54	Robert Chai (6-3, 285, Sr.)
ST	68	Brian Abraham (6-6, 300, Jr.)
SG	71	Shannon Tevaga (6-3, 310, Jr.)
TE	81	J.J. Hair (6-5, 248, Sr.)
SE	9	Marcus Everett (6-1, 200, Jr.)
FL	26	Joe Cowan (6-4, 220, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	17	Justin Hickman (6-1, 261, Sr.)
DT	75	Kevin Brown (6-2, 297, Jr.)
DT	93	Brigham Harwell (6-1, 274, Jr.)
RE	48	William Snead (6-4, 253, Jr.)
SLB	12	John Hale (6-4, 225, So.)
MLB	33	Christian Taylor (6-0, 220, Jr.)
WLB	2	Eric McNeal (6-2, 209, Sr.)
LCB	23	Trey Brown (5-10, 189, Jr.)
RCB	3	Rodney Van (6-1, 178, Jr.)
FS	11	Dennis Keyes (6-1, 192, Jr.)
SS	14	Chris Horton (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	7	Justin Medlock (6-0, 186, Sr.)
P	17	Aaron Perez (6-2, 220, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Rose Bowl (91,500)

The Bruins will rely on a handful of players to replace Drew's 20 touchdowns and 1,863 all-purpose yards. Junior Chris Markey, a gifted kick returner, is expected to start at tailback—he averaged 46.8 rushing yards per game in '05—but will face competition from sophomore Kahlil Bell.

The one offensive unit not in flux is receiver, where last season's starters, Joe Cowan and Marcus Everett, return. In addition, the Bruins welcome back playmaker Junior Taylor, who suffered a season-ending knee injury early last season.

"We may have lost some statistical leaders," Dorrell says, "but we have players in place to continue the high level of productivity."

Those players will be working with a new offensive coordinator. To replace Cable, who masterminded the high-octane offense, Dorrell promoted Jim Svoboda, who coached quarterbacks the past two seasons.

There's also a new boss on defense. Dorrell fired Larry Kerr and hired DeWayne Walker from the Washington Redskins, where he served as the secondary coach. Walker must rebuild a defense that was hit hard by injuries and laughably bad. The Bruins were last in the conference in scoring defense and rushing defense and ninth in total defense. Oh, and they allowed 34 points per game.

Yes, seven starters are back, but given how they played last fall, is that really a good thing? We'll see. To be sure, the return of tackle Kevin Brown will help tremendously. (He missed all of the 2005 season with an ankle injury.) Tackle Brigham Harwell and end Justin Hickman are also back. At the very least, UCLA will have one of the most experienced lines in the league.

That's not the case at linebacker, where the Bruins must replace three starters, including all-conference pick Spencer Havner. In the group competing for playing time, there's one senior, Eric McNeal, and a herd of underclassmen.

The personnel losses in the secondary are almost as great—starting with safety Jarrad Page, a four-year starter, and moving to corner, where UCLA will no longer have the services of Marcus Cassel. Watch for junior Rodney Van to replace Cassel; on the other side, the Bruins will depend on junior Trey Brown, who started every game last season.

The special teams got a boost in April, when placekicker Justin Medlock was reinstated to the team after a DUI charge.

Head coach: Karl Dorrell, 4th year (22-15)
Career record: 22-15
Assistant coaches: Dino Babers (RBs/recruiting coord.), Chuck Bullough (LBs), Jim Colletto (asst. head coach/off. line), Gary DeLoach (secondary/CBs), Todd Howard (def. line), D.J. McCarthy (WRs), Jim Svoboda (off. coord./QBs), DeWayne Walker (def. coord.), John Wristen (TEs/special teams)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Micah Kia**, OL, 6-5, 295 *Top prospect in strong OL group.*
2	**Terrence Austin**, WR, 5-11, 175 *Latest athlete from Long Beach Poly pipeline.*
3	**Chane Moline**, RB, 6-1, 240 *Fullback is solid prospect from top prep program.*
4	**Dylan Rush**, DE, 6-3, 240 *Hawaii recruit could also play tight end.*
5	**Christian Ramirez**, WR, 6-2, 195 *Sleeper prospect could play several positions.*

STANFORD
CARDINAL

PRESEASON RANK:

#7

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	4
2003	4
2002	2
2001	▲9

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Walt Harris, 2nd year (5-6)
Career record: 68-74
Stadium: Stanford Stadium
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site: www.gostanford.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@OREGON	20-44
S.9	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.16	Navy	41-38
S. 23	Washington State	24-21
S.30	@UCLA	27-30 (OT)
O.7	@NOTRE DAME	31-38
O.14	Arizona	20-16
O.21	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
N.4	USC	21-51
N.11	@WASHINGTON	
N.18	Oregon State	20-17
D.2	@CALIFORNIA	3-27

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

To qualify for a bowl game, the Cardinal must win home games against mediocre opponents.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/19

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Trent Edwards (6-4, 220, Sr.)
FB	39	Nick Frank (6-2, 260, Sr.)
RB	26	Anthony Kimble (6-1, 195, Jr.)
LT	67	Allen Smith (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	59	Josiah Vinson (6-4, 315, Sr.)
C	62	Tim Mattran (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RG	60	Alex Fletcher (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	70	Jeff Edwards (6-6, 290, Sr.)
TE	82	Patrick Danahy (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	8	Evan Moore (6-7, 235, Sr.)
WR	4	Mark Bradford (6-2, 200, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	Pannel Egboh (6-6, 260, Jr.)
DT	54	Ekom Udofia (6-2, 335, So.)
DT	93	Matt Kopa (6-6, 270, So.)
DE	90	Udeme Udofia (6-4, 240, Sr.)
OLB	48	Mike Silva (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	55	Michael Okwo (6-0, 220, Sr.)
OLB	57	Clinton Snyder (6-4, 215, So.)
CB	2	Nick Sanchez (6-0, 185, Sr.)
CB	14	Tim Sims (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	24	Trevor Hooper (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	6	David Lofton (6-4, 220, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Aaron Zagory (6-0, 165, Jr.)
P	27	Jay Ottovegio (6-0, 195, Sr.)

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **4-4 PAC-10**

We are not predicting Stanford, which finished 5-6 last season and has more questions than a game of Trivial Pursuit, will win the Pac-10 title. But, then again, it's happened before, and the circumstances were eerily similar.

In 1999, the Cardinal was coming off a 3-8 season. It had depth issues at numerous positions and a mediocre defense. But Stanford had the one thing that mattered most in its march to the Rose Bowl: the best quarterback in the conference, a fifth-year senior named Todd Husak.

That might be the case again this season. Oft-injured senior Trent Edwards has the ability to be the best passer in the Pac-10. He's big, strong, mobile and can make all the throws. He also has the most experienced offense in the league. The Cardinal returns 10 starters on that side of the ball and should have a solid grasp of the West Coast offense run by second-year Coach Walt Harris. What's more, Stanford will play its home games in remodeled Stanford Stadium, a 50,000-seat facility that should provide the atmosphere that was sorely lacking from its gigantic predecessor.

But there are questions—many, many questions.

Can Edwards stay healthy?

Can the veteran offensive line open running lanes and protect Edwards, two things it has repeatedly failed to do over the years?

Will tailbacks Anthony Kimble and Jason Evans give the Cardinal a reliable ground game?

Can receiver Evan Moore, who at 6-7 is one of the toughest matchups in the conference, return to the form he showed before dislocating his hip early last season?

Defensively, Stanford must replace all of its playmakers, including nose tackle Babtunde Oshinowo and outside linebacker Jon Alston. Who will emerge as the leaders? Watch for big seasons from end Pannel Egboh and linebacker Michael Okwo, both of whom missed significant time last season due to injury. There's a huge hole at the cornerback spot opposite Nick Sanchez, and there is very little depth along the defensive line.

One important returnee is Defensive Coordinator A.J. Christoff, who brought the 3-4 defense to Stanford two years ago, then left for a year for a job with the San Francisco 49ers. He's back to run the unit this fall.

ARIZONA
WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK:

#8

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	3
2003	2
2002	4
2001	5

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Mike Stoops, 3rd year (6-16)
Career record: 6-16
Stadium: Arizona Stadium
Capacity: 56,002
Official athletic Web site: www.arizonaathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Brigham Young	
S.9	@LSU	
S.16	Stephen F. Austin	
S.23	USC	21-42
S.30	Washington	14-38
O.7	@UCLA	52-14
O.14	@STANFORD	16-20
O.21	Oregon State	29-27
N.4	@WASHINGTON ST.	
N. 11	California	0-28
N.18	@OREGON	21-28
N.25	Arizona State	20-23

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

If the 'Cats are in bowl contention, this becomes the biggest game in Tucson in five years.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/17

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Willie Tuitama (6-3, 218, So.)
FB	45	Brandon Lopez (6-1, 220, So.)
RB	19	Chris Henry (6-0, 215, Jr.)
LT	76	Peter Graniello (6-6, 285, Jr.)
LG	74	Adam Hawes (6-4, 302, Sr.)
C	71	Erick Levitre (6-1, 282, Sr.)
RG	75	Joe Longacre (6-3,, 303 So.)
RT	72	Tanner Bell (6-8, 294, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandyn McCall (6-4, 245, Jr.)
WR	9	A. Johnson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
WR	10	Mike Thomas (5-8, 178, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	97	Johnathan Turner (6-3, 260, So.)
DT	96	Yaniv Barnett (6-1, 285, Jr.)
DT	54	Lionel Dotson (6-4, 280, Jr.)
DE	55	Marcus Smith (6-5, 285, Sr.)
SLB	39	Dane Krogstad (6-2, 240, Jr.)
MLB	33	Ronnie Palmer (6-3, 239, So.)
WLB	51	Spencer Larsen (6-1, 240, Jr.)
CB	3	Wilrey Fontenot (5-9, 174, Jr.)
CB	5	Antoine Cason (6-0, 182, Jr.)
FS	34	Brandon Tatum (6-1, 188, So.)
SS	23	Michael Johnson (6-2, 210, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	12	Nick Folk (6-1, 215, Sr.)
P	27	Kyle McQuown (5-9, 175, Jr.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **2-6 PAC-10**

Officially and forever, Mike Stoops' honeymoon with the Arizona football program ends on Sept. 2. That's when the Wildcats face Brigham Young in the opener of their third season under Stoops—and when the winning better start.

Stoops received a free pass for two years after inheriting the mess that John Mackovic left, and in those two seasons he has given Wildcat fans reason to be optimistic: They beat Arizona State to close Stoops' first season and whipped UCLA last fall. But both seasons, the 'Cats finished 3-8.

That won't cut it this year.

No one is asking Stoops to win eight games. But the Cats need to show tangible improvement—at least five wins, maybe six—or the grumbling will begin. And in Tucson, where UA sports are the only show in town, the grumbling can get very loud very quickly.

The Wildcats seemingly have the ingredients to make the leap to respectability. Sophomore quarterback Willie Tuitama is the most talented passer they've had—perhaps ever. The lines are the deepest and most experienced they've been in the Stoops era. The linebackers and defensive backs are among the most talented in the league.

"We're close, and people realize that," Stoops told reporters on the first day of spring practice.

But to turn potential into victories, the Wildcats will need consistency from Tuitama, a sophomore who had a 137.0 passing-efficiency rating in limited action last season.

They'll need someone to take over for departed tailback Mike Bell and lead a running attack that averaged a paltry 122 yards per game in '05. (The best bet is 215-pound junior Chris Henry.)

They'll need big plays from a receiving unit that features senior Syndric Steptoe and sophomore Mike Thomas, who combined for 89 catches a year ago.

They'll need the young, but talented, linebackers (Spencer Larsen, Ronnie Palmer and Dane Krogstad) to stay healthy, something they couldn't do last fall.

They'll need veteran cornerbacks Antoine Cason and Wilrey Fontenot to play lockdown defense on the perimeter, and they'll need someone to replace departed all-league safety Darrell Brooks.

PULLMAN

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **1-7 PAC-10**

PRESEASON RANK:

#9

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	5
2003	▲10
2002	▲10
2001	▲10

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bill Doba, 4th year (19-16)
Career record: 19-16
Stadium: Martin Stadium
Capacity: 37,600
Official athletic Web site: www.wsucougars.com

Few teams fell harder and farther than Washington State last season. The Cougars won their first three games, then dropped seven in a row and finished tied (with rival Washington) for last place in the Pac-10.

But it was a deceptive last place. Of WSU's seven losses, five were by four points or less. With a few breaks, the Cougars could have finished sixth, or even fourth.

The same appears true this season. Although this has the makings of another long season in the Palouse, Coach Bill Doba's team has the ingredients—including a favorable schedule—to make a run at a winning season.

Much of the Cougars' success depends on the play of junior quarterback Alex Brink. He no longer has to worry about competition from Josh Swogger, who transferred to Montana, and can concentrate on running the offense. Brink is not a super talent, but he's got good feet and more than enough arm to become one of the conference's best quarterbacks.

WSU's primary concern is replacing All-America tailback Jerome Harrison, who rushed for 1,900 yards last season. Sophomore DeMaundray Woolridge is the front-runner to win the job in training camp, but Kevin McCall and Dwight Tardy figure to get their share of reps.

Three starters return along the offensive line, which means Brink should have time to throw to one of the league's top receiving units. Senior Jason Hill stands with Cal's DeSean Jackson and USC's Dwayne Jarrett as the best in the West; all he did last season was catch 62 passes and score 13 touchdowns. He's joined on the perimeter by Michael Bumpus, who doubles as a first-class punt returner, and Brandon Gibson.

Defensively, Washington State has one of the league's best linemen in end Mkristo Bruce and a solid set of linebackers. But the Cougars must shore up the secondary, which was the main reason they yielded 289.1 passing yards per game last season. WSU is counting on safety Eric Frampton to be fully recovered from a knee injury that kept him out of spring practice.

The search for starting cornerbacks begins with Tyron Brackenridge, who did not play last season because of academic issues.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@AUBURN	
S.9	Idaho	38-26
S.16	Baylor	
S.23	@STANFORD	21-24
S.30	USC	13-55
O. 7	@ OREGON STATE	33-44
O.14	California	38-42
O.21	Oregon	31-34
O.28	@UCLA	41-44 (OT)
N.4	Arizona	
N.11	@ARIZONA STATE	24-27
N.18	Washington	26-22

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cougars will probably need at least one conference road win to get bowl-eligible. This could be the one.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/20

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Alex Brink (6-2, 202, r-Jr.)
SB	5	M. Bumpus (5-11, 186, Jr.)
RB	35	D. Woolridge (5-8, 223, So.)
LT	70	Bobby Byrd (6-7, 314, r-Jr.)
LG	73	Sean O'Connor (6-5, 287, r-Sr.)
C	60	Dan Rowlands (6-5, 283, r-So.)
RG	72	Andy Roof (6-3, 316, r-So.)
RT	55	Charles Harris (6-6, 308, r-Sr.)
TE	41	Jed Collins (6-2, 250, Jr.)
SE	83	Jason Hill (6-2, 208, Sr.)
FL	86	Brandon Gibson (6-0, 195, So.)
DEFENSE		
SE	58	Matt Mullennix (6-5, 256, r-Jr.)
LT	40	Aaron Johnson (6-6, 310, r-Jr.)
RT	92	Fevaea'I Ahmu (6-1, 284, So.)
WE	94	Mkristo Bruce (6-6, 250, r-Sr.)
SLB	42	Scott Davis (5-10, 228, r-Sr.)
MLB	52	Greg Trent (5-10, 230, So.)
WLB	49	Steve Dildine (6-1, 229, r-Sr.)
LCB	25	Don Turner (6-0, 183, r-Sr.)
RCB	12	T. Brackenridge (6-0, 180, r-Sr.)
FS	23	Husain Abdullah (6-0, 189, r-Jr.)
SS	37	Eric Frampton (5-11, 208, r-Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	27	Loren Langley (5-8, 150, Jr.)
P	39	Darryl Blunt (6-0, 178, r-So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

SEATTLE

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **1-7 PAC-10**

PRESEASON RANK:

#10

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	1
2003	6
2002	▲7
2001	▲8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Tyrone Willingham, 2nd year (2-9)
Career record: 67-60-1
Stadium: Husky Stadium
Capacity: 72,500
Official athletic Web site: www.gohuskies.com

Washington could have had a 13th game this fall by agreeing to play at Hawaii, but Coach Tyrone Willingham declined. Asked to explain his decision during a spring-practice press conference, Willingham indicated that he expects the Huskies to play 13 games without the trip to Honolulu. In other words, he expects UW to play in a bowl game.

There aren't many who share his optimism, given that Washington is 3-19 over the past two seasons. Many longtime Husky watchers believe it will take Willingham at least three years to get the program back to respectability. After several years of poor recruiting under former coaches Rick Neuheisel and Keith Gilbertson, the Huskies simply lack the talent to compete regularly with even the league's mid-level teams.

Willingham has turned programs around by force of will before—see: Stanford, 1999—and there's no doubt that Washington was a tougher and more disciplined team last season than it was under Willingham's predecessors. But it seems unlikely the Huskies will make the jump from two wins to six—especially with a brutal road schedule that includes trips to Oklahoma, USC and Cal.

Much depends on the play of senior QB Isaiah Stanback, a wonderful athlete but inconsistent passer. He played well during spring practice and is expected to be the opening-game starter. What's more, the Huskies plan to let Stanback run more this fall than last. That should help an offensive line that lost four starters and a receiving unit that lost its best deep threat (Craig Chambers). At tailback, watch for redshirt freshman J.R. Hasty to challenge upperclassmen Kenny James and Louis Rankin.

The defensive line should be solid, but Washington's only returning starter at linebacker, Scott White, has been consistently inconsistent throughout his career.

The secondary—as anyone who watched the Huskies play last season would attest—was dreadful. Opponents scored 24 passing touchdowns, the most in UW history. Although all four starters are back, the problems were more about talent than experience.

It's going to take Willingham more than one full recruiting season to restock the roster with the talent the program possessed for so many years.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	San Jose State	
S.9	@OKLAHOMA	
S.16	Fresno State	
S. 23	UCLA	17-21
S.30	@ARIZONA	38-14
O.7	@USC	24-51
O.14	Oregon State	10-18
O.21	@CALIFOR' IA	17-56
O.28	Arizona Sta	20-44
N.4	@OREGON	21-45
N.11	Stanford	
N.18	@WASHIN TO T.	22-26

★ GAME TO WAT H ★

Nothing would hel the skies more than opening Pac- pl with a victory.

PROJECTE S ARTERS

Starters returning: 5
Lettermen returnin /los 37/31

OFFENSE		
QB	4	Isaiah S nback (6-3, 205, Sr.)
FB	43	Mark Pa aita (5-10, 240, Sr.)
RB	8	Kenny J mes (5-10, 215, Sr.)
LT	76	Nathan lowers (6-3, 335, So.)
LG	74	Stanley Daniels (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	58	Juan Ga cia (6-3, 310, Jr.)
RG	63	Clay Wa ker (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	75	Chad M cklin (6-8, 300, Jr.)
TE	86	Michael Gottlie (6-5, 240, So.)
WR	21	S. Shack elford (6-2, 180, Sr.)
WR	5	Anthony Russ (5-11, 185, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	Donny I atea i (6-5, 285, Sr.)
DT	74	Wilson foa (-3, 290, Jr.)
DT	95	Jordan effett (6-6, 295, Jr.)
DE	7	G. Gun eim (-4, 240, Jr.)
OLB	4	Scott W ite (6 1, 230, Sr.)
ILB	47	Tahj Bo nar (6 2, 215, Sr.)
OLB	29	Chris St vens 6-0, 195, So.)
CB	6	Matt Fo ntain (5-11, 180, Sr.)
CB	8	Dashon Golds n (6-2, 195, Sr.)
FS		Ashlee Palme (6-3, 215, Jr.)
SS	1	C.J. Wa lace (-0, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	14	M. Bra nstein (5-8, 185, Jr.)
P	17	Sean D uglas (6-1, 215, Sr.)

PAC-10

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Xavier Carter**, LSU	*Most elusive RB*	**Darren McFadden** Arkansas	*Top NFL prospect*	**Kenny Irons**, RB, Auburn
Best hands	**Courtney Taylor**, WR, Auburn	*Best instincts*	**David Irons**, CB, Auburn	*Top impact freshman*	**Mitch Mustain**, QB, Arkansas
Best passing QB	**JaMarcus Russell**, LSU	*Best athlete*	**Andre Caldwell**, WR, Florida	*Hardest hitter*	**Patrick Willis**, LB, Ole Miss
Best running QB	**Chris Nickson**, Vanderbilt	*Best under pressure*	**Chris Leak**, QB, Florida	*Biggest underachiever*	**Xavier Carter**, WR, LSU

Predicted order of finish:

EAST

1. p. 100 STOCK: UP
2. p. 102 STOCK: DOWN
3. p. 104 STOCK: UP
4. p. 105 STOCK: STEADY
5. p. 106 STOCK: UP
6. p. 106 STOCK: DOWN

WEST

1. p. 108 STOCK: STEADY
2. p. 110 STOCK: STEADY
3. p. 112 STOCK: DOWN
4. p. 113 STOCK: UP
5. p. 114 STOCK: UP
6. p. 114 STOCK: STEADY

'Survivor,' gridiron-style, getting ready to play out for Big Four down South

By **SCOTT RABALAIS**
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

Golf has its Big Five. This year, the SEC has its Big Four.

"It'll be the same teams there as last year. You're looking at Georgia, LSU and Auburn," says Alabama Coach Mike Shula, forgetfully omitting Florida, the odds-on favorite in the SEC East.

Auburn and LSU in the West; Florida and Georgia in the East.

Going into the 2006 season, the league appears stratified with its haves, have-nots and the middle class. And it's difficult, though not impossible, to imagine anyone but one of the Big Four will emerge as SEC champion.

Still, whoever that team is will no doubt be showing some battle scars. The SEC's heavyweight contenders will spend the fall bashing into each other with concussive force that will register on the Richter Scale of the SEC standings.

As Jim Morrison once sang: "No one here gets out alive."

Shula might have accidentally left Florida off his list of top SEC contenders, but surely the Gators won't be forgetting who their prime opposition is.

Of the Big Four, Florida and Auburn both have to play the other three. LSU and Georgia both "only" have to play Florida and Auburn, having rotated off each other's schedules for now.

Perhaps no one faces a more difficult test than Auburn, who not only doesn't duck any of the top-flight competition, but also has to play the new 12-game regular season schedule straight through. There is no open date for the Tigers since their Iron Bowl game at Alabama falls on Nov. 18.

"That's almost suicide in the SEC," Tuberville says. "It's kind of like surviving a season."

The other contenders won't be shedding too many tears for Tuberville's Tigers. LSU also hosts Alabama and visits Tennessee, which will be trying to regain its status as a top SEC program after last year's shocking 5-6 freefall. Florida and Georgia of course both have to face the Vols as well.

Alabama, with its games against LSU and Auburn, has its chance to decide who wins the West—and maybe it'll be the Crimson Tide. But 'Bama must be wary of a Sept. 23 trip to Arkansas, another West Division dark horse. The Razorbacks fill a niche similar to South Carolina in the East: no one is expecting either to win its division, but no one relishes the thought of playing them, either.

Of course, most predictions are cursed by the unpredictability of the season itself, which can be embodied by one word: injuries.

"With 12 games you're going to have more injuries," Tennessee Coach Phillip Fulmer says.

That will be true for everyone, including the champion, a team that will know it's been in a fight.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-SEC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Chris Leak, Sr., Florida	DL	Quentin Moses, Sr., Georgia
RB	Kenny Irons, Sr., Auburn	DL	Justin Harrell, Jr., Tennessee
RB	Kenneth Darby, Sr., Alabama	DL	Keith Jackson, Sr., Arkansas
OL	Arron Sears, Sr., Tennessee	DL	Marcus Thomas, Sr., Florida
OL	Tim Duckworth, Jr., Auburn	LB	Jarvis Jackson, Sr., Georgia
OL	Daniel Inman, Sr., Georgia	LB	Sam Olajubutu, Sr., Arkansas
OL	Will Arnold, Jr., LSU	LB	Patrick Willis, Sr., Ole Miss
OL	Brian Stamper, Sr., Vanderbilt	DB	David Irons, Sr., Auburn
TE	Jacob Tamme, Jr., Kentucky	DB	Reggie Nelson, Jr., Florida
WR	Sidney Rice, So., South Carolina	DB	LaRon Landry, Sr., LSU
WR	Earl Bennett, So., Vanderbilt	DB	Tra Battle, Sr., Georgia
PK	Brandon Coutu, Jr., Georgia	P	Kody Bliss, Sr., Auburn

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Is this really a make-or-break year for Tennessee Coach Phillip Fulmer?** No one is saying Fulmer has to win to keep his job, but another losing season would have Big Orange fans seeing red.
2. **Will Steve Spurrier be able to keep South Carolina upwardly mobile?** The Gamecocks' offense should be even better with the return of Syvelle Newton, but the defense will keep USC out of the SEC Championship Game once again.
3. **How good a coach is LSU's Les Miles?** He was great at crisis management last year, leading the hurricane-plagued Tigers to an 11-2 record. But Tiger fans want to see how Miles does against a killer road schedule.
4. **Houston, do you have a problem?** After flirtations with job openings at LSU and Nebraska and two losing seasons, Arkansas Coach Houston Nutt has no room for error.
5. **Will Florida's spread offense be thin again this season?** Coach Urban Meyer is adjusting the attack to fit QB Chris Leak's talents, but every great offense needs a great running back–and Florida doesn't have one.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **FLORIDA**: Landing QB Tim Tebow merely put the exclamation point on a class that has the Gator faithful singing Urban Meyer's praises all over again.
2. **GEORGIA**: QB Matthew Stafford and safety Reshad Jones may be the best in the country at their positions.
3. **LSU**: LSU book-ended its class with nationally sought talent–DT Al Woods and RB Keiland Williams.
4. **AUBURN**: A class that includes DT Greg Smith, RB Benjamin Tate and WR Tim Hawthorne will help keep Auburn among the SEC's upper echelons.
5. **ALABAMA**: Keeping Birmingham OL Andre Smith at home was keystone to a class that illustrates steady improvement under Mike Shula.
6. **OLE MISS**: Counting transfers Brent Schaeffer at QB and DT Jerrell Powe, this was a surprisingly strong class.
7. **TENNESSEE**: Aside from highly coveted juco DE Walter Fisher, this class wasn't up to the Volunteers' usual sky-high standards.
8. **SOUTH CAROLINA**: Spurrier drew in a highly recruited QB in Chris Smelley and some quality O-linemen.
9. **ARKANSAS**: Razorbacks needed a good class and kept more top players in state.
10. **KENTUCKY**: UK's haul lacks depth of top-caliber SEC classes, but DE Micah Johnson was a good pickup.
11. **MISSISSIPPI STATE**: Aside from Anthony Summers, Bulldogs were routed by Ole Miss.
12. **VANDERBILT**: Landed a good QB in Jared Funk.

Terry, Howie, Jimmy...

(and Dan, Boomer, Chris and Phil)

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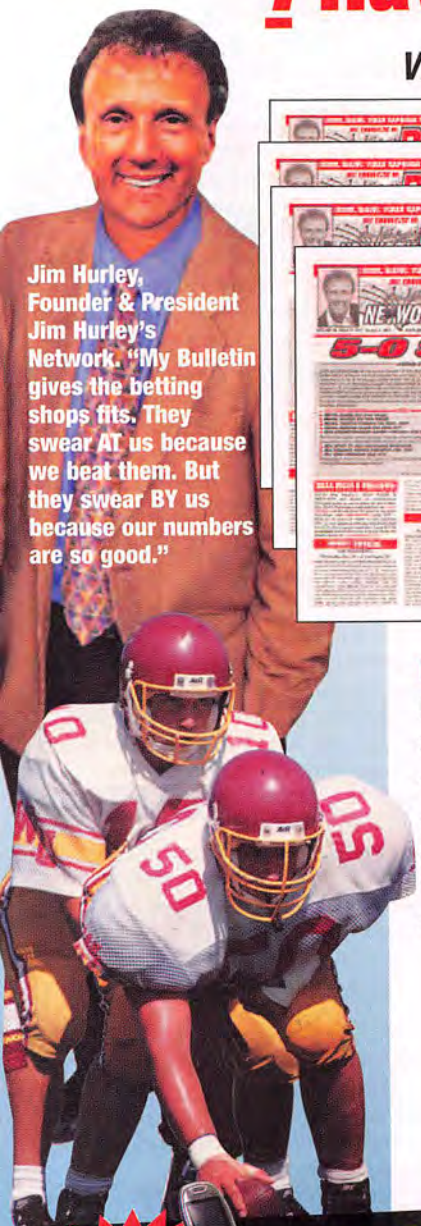

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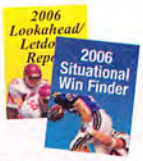

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FLORIDA Gators GATORS

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
9-3	5-3

(beat Iowa in the Outback Bowl, 31-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Southern Miss	
S.9	UCF	
S.16	@TENNESSEE	16-7
S.23	Kentucky	49-28
S.30	Alabama	3-31
O.7	LSU	17-21
O.14	@AUBURN	
O.28	Georgia*	14-10
N.4	@VANDERBILT	49-42 (OT)
N.11	South Carolina	22-30
N.18	Western Carolina	
N.25	@FLORIDA STATE	34-7

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The annual "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" will be the straw that stirs the drink in the SEC East.

** at Jacksonville, Fla.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/20

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Chris Leak (6-0, 210, Sr.)
FB	42	Billy Latsko (5-10, 231, Sr.)
TB	33	Kestahn Moore (5-10, 212, So.)
LT	75	Phil Trautwein (6-6, 309, Jr.)
LG	63	Jim Tartt (6-3, 310, So.)
C	79	Steve Rissler (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	70	Ronnie Wilson (6-4, 310, r-Fr.)
RT	67	Drew Miller (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	84	Tate Casey (6-6, 242, Jr.)
WR	5	Andre Caldwell (6-1, 200, Sr.)
WR	81	Dallas Baker (6-3, 206, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Ray McDonald (6-3, 280, Sr.)
DT	20	Joe Cohen (6-3, 292, Sr.)
DT	44	Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DE	94	Jarvis Moss (6-6, 252, Jr.)
LB	30	Earl Everett (6-2, 231, Sr.)
LB	40	Brandon Siler (6-2, 235, Jr.)
LB	55	Jon Demps (6-4, 230, So.)
CB	22	Reggie Lewis (5-10, 195, Sr.)
CB	4	Avery Atkins (5-11, 189, So.)
SS	1	Reggie Nelson (6-1, 198, Jr.)
FS	3	Kyle Jackson (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Chris Hetland (6-0, 185, Sr.)
P	10	Eric Wilbur (6-1, 203, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Urban Meyer, 2nd year (9-3)
Career record: 48-11
Assistant coaches: Charlie Strong (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs), Greg Mattison (co-def. coord./def. line), Chuck Heater (CBs/recruiting coord.), John "Doc" Holliday (safeties), Dan Mullen (off. coord./QBs), Billy Gonzales (WRs), John Hevesy (off. line), Steve Addazio (TEs), Stan Drayton (RBs)

SEC EAST

Gator fans expecting Meyer magic to show itself in Urban's second year

This will be the 100th anniversary season of Florida football. It's a reason to celebrate to be sure, especially the last 25 years in which the Gators supplanted Alabama as the SEC's measuring stick.

But Gator fans hope they'll have more reason to celebrate the future, or the present, than the past.

This is Year Two under Coach Urban Meyer. And that's the year when the Meyer magic usually starts kicking in.

At Bowling Green, his teams went 8-3 and 9-3. At Utah, he went 10-2, then 12-0, leading the Utes to the heady heights of a BCS berth in the Fiesta Bowl.

After three years of wandering in football purgatory under Ron Zook, the Gators showed promise in fits and starts during a 9-3 inaugural season with Meyer. Now the opportunity, and the expectations, will be great.

This is the year Florida is supposed to be Florida again.

"The University of Florida is supposed to win," linebacker Brandon Siler says. "That's why I came here."

The Gators weren't really the boys of old Florida last year. They won but rarely clicked on offense. They rarely stuffed anyone on defense.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Percy Harvin**, WR/KR, 5-11, 182 *Gators lured Mr. Excitement away from FSU.*
2	**Tim Tebow**, QB, 6-3, 225 *Pass-run QB perfect for Gators' system.*
3	**Carl Johnson**, OL, 6-6, 335 *At 335 pounds, he loves pancake blocks.*
4	**Jamar Hornsby**, DB, 6-4, 195 *Talented athlete may play early.*
5	**Brandon Spikes**, DE, 6-4, 230 *Prep linebacker moved to edge.*

This still won't be the true example of the spread offense that Meyer made famous at Utah. After stubbornly trying to force incumbent quarterback Chris Leak into being something he isn't—equal parts runner and passer—Meyer made accommodations in the offense going into this year. The Gators will throw the ball by moving the pocket, not trying to force Leak into being a running quarterback. Just a couple of option plays per game to keep defenses honest—and the coach happy.

Despite Leak's steady hand on the Florida offense the last three years, and his quality numbers last season (235-of-374 passing, 2,639 yards, 20 touchdowns, 6 interceptions), what would make many of the Florida faithful happy would be throwing freshman quarterback Tim Tebow (6-3, 225 pounds) into the offense. Tebow appears tailor-made for Meyer's spread attack, but of course lacks Leak's experience.

Tebow is expected to play—he is Florida's only other scholarship quarterback and participated in spring drills—but Meyer was eager this spring to head off a you-know-what.

"The good thing is that there isn't a quarterback controversy," Meyer says. "For Gator fans and college football fans, that is a great water cooler story in the morning. But Chris Leak is the [starting] quarterback and Tim Tebow is going to be the guy that plays. His [Tebow's] playing time will be dictated by Tim Tebow.

"We're going to let him grow as a quarterback. There is no quarterback controversy. We have two great young men that we're going to build an offense around and be successful."

Leak says he gets along well with Tebow, "like I have always got along well with the other quarterbacks here."

Tebow speaks of Leak deferentially as his mentor: "It's great to have someone with a lot of experience to learn under."

Of course, any quarterback is only as good as his supporting cast. Meyer frankly wishes that could be better.

"We have a serious void at playmakers," Meyer says, "which we shouldn't have here. We have a freshman class that will have a chance to bypass some guys unless we get a little better."

The tailback position is one that is particularly unsettled. The Gators returned their top three ground-gainers from 2005—DeShawn Wynn (621 yards, 7 TDs), Markus Manson (365, 2) and

Kestahn Moore (277, 1)—but it was Moore who emerged as the No. 1 back coming out of the spring.

Not that Meyer was satisfied. "I don't think we're where we need to be," he says.

Things are a little better at receiver, where seniors Dallas Baker (52 catches, 697 yards, 5 TDs) and Andre Caldwell (10, 148) form one of the SEC's best duos. A surprisingly strong addition to the receiving corps in the spring was the emergence of Cornelius Ingram (6-4, 235), a former quarterback.

"He's probably the most natural ball-catcher I've seen since Chris Carter," Meyer says. "You can tell there wasn't a lot of Xbox in his life. He was out in the backyard. He is a very natural catcher and a long strider so he gets a lot of speed. He's a downfield threat, and we need some downfield guys."

The offensive line had to be completely rebuilt after the loss of four starters. The only returner, senior Steve Rissler, was moved from right guard to center to replace Mike Degory. Redshirt freshman Ronnie Wilson slides in to take Rissler's old spot. Drew Miller moved from guard to right tackle, helping solidify the revamped line. Phil Trautwein, who drew post-spring praise from Meyer, is at left tackle, while Jim Tartt is next to him at left guard. Junior Tate Casey is the new tight end.

Defensively, the Gators were a banged-up bunch in the spring, though few if any of the injuries were expected to be threatening in the fall. End Ray McDonald (6-3, 280) had two ACL surgeries in the offseason that kept him out of the spring, but he was recovering well. Junior Jarvis Moss (6-6, 252), who led the Gators with 7.5 sacks last year, is back at the other end spot.

Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290) came out of the spring as the starter at one defensive-tackle spot because senior Steven Harris (6-4, 281) wasn't allowed to practice for disciplinary reasons. His status with the team was in doubt going into the fall. Senior Joe Cohen (6-3, 292) mans the other tackle spot.

The Gators' top two tacklers return to lead the linebacker corps: senior Earl Everett (72 tackles, 2 interceptions) and Siler (64 stops), a junior. Sophomore Jon Demps takes over at the strongside spot from Todd McCullough. Senior Reggie Nelson (46 tackles) is the only returner in the secondary, moving from free to strong safety. Senior Reggie Lewis and sophomore Avery Atkins take over at cornerback, while Kyle Jackson is at free safety.

Both kickers return, keeping Florida on solid footing there. Punter Eric Wilbur averaged 41.7 yards per kick last season, earning him a Ray Guy Award nomination. Placekicker Chris Hetland was second-team All-SEC after converting 38 of 40 extra points and 13 of 16 field-goal attempts.

Though the Gators have the talent to win the SEC East, the schedule may prove to be a stumbling block—or blocks. Aside from the annual grudge match in Jacksonville against Georgia, the Gators have to travel to Tennessee and Auburn. A two-game test at home against Alabama and LSU will be a difficult midseason stretch. And then there is the season finale against Florida State, this year in Tallahassee.

Even Meyer is of the opinion that the Gators may be better than they were in 2005 but that their schedule may not cast an accurate reflection because of the degree of difficulty.

But, remember, Florida has the second-year Meyer magic in its corner. After a year in his system, it would be foolish not to expect the Gators to win—and win big—in 2006.

NEXT BIG THING

TIM TEBOW, freshman quarterback

Tim Tebow looked impressive in Florida's spring football game—maybe a little too much for Gators Coach Urban Meyer.

Tebow, one of the top quarterback recruits in last year's class, generated quite the buzz among the fans who showed up at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in April, outplaying three-year starter Chris Leak and causing many to bring up the "c" word—controversy.

Meyer worked quickly after the game to quell any of that talk, but did add, "I was enjoying watching Tim Tebow and Chris Leak compete a little bit."

Although Meyer danced around the "c" word, it was hard to overlook the fact Tebow seemed much more comfortable in Meyer's spread offense, completing 15 of 21 passes for 197 yards and a touchdown.

"The way the game started, he was a little nervous," Meyer said of Tebow's performance. "One of the advantages we have over a lot of schools is to play in front of 45,000 people in the spring. It's hard to simulate. But in the end, he's one of those players, as the game continues, he gets better and better."

Leak's numbers (17-of-33 for 145 yards and a TD) didn't help the senior, who had trouble at times last season grasping Meyer's complex offensive scheme.

Tebow, from Nease High in St. Augustine, came to Gainesville after having broken Florida prep records for career passing yards (9,940) and touchdowns (159). The dual threat threw for 3,442 yards and 34 TDs his senior season while rushing for 1,045 yards and 21 scores.

It's that kind of potential that turned Meyer into a broken record this offseason, as he's had to repeatedly confirm that Leak will be the starting QB Sept. 2 when Florida opens its season against Southern Miss.

So, no controversy—for now.

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	OPP
SCORING	343	226
Points Per Game	28.6	18.8
FIRST DOWNS	245	198
Rushing	105	67
Passing	124	109
Penalty	16	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1761	1139
Yards gained rushing	2167	1495
Yards lost rushing	406	356
Rushing Attempts	455	373
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.1
Average Per Game	146.8	94.9
TDs Rushing	19	14
PASSING YARDAGE	2720	2459
Att-Comp-Int	385-241-7	375-196-16
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.6
Average Per Catch	11.3	12.5
Average Per Game	226.7	204.9
TDs Passing	20	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	4481	3598
Total Plays	840	748
Average Per Play	5.3	4.8
Average Per Game	373.4	299.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	30-618	51-1006
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	35-251	18-60
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-145	7-111
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	20.6	19.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.2	3.3
INT RETURN AVERAGE	9.1	15.9
FUMBLES-LOST	20-6	21-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-783	64-493
Average Per Game	65.2	41.1
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2542	64-2514
Average Per Punt	41.0	39.3
Net punt average	38.1	34.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:37	27:13
3RD-DOWN CONV.	67/176	56/159
3rd-Down Pct	38%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/22	6/16
4th-Down Pct	55%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-232	35-224
MISC YARDS	28	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	43	30
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	13-16	6-12
PAT-ATTEMPTS	40-42	28-29
ATTENDANCE	542435	323661
Games/Avg Per Game	6/90406	4/80915
Neutral Site Games		2/75191

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida	69	125	78	57	14	343
Opponent	55	47	41	76	7	226

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Chris Leak

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	136.54	374-235-6	62.8	2639	20	219.9

Josh Portis

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	98.22	11-6-1	54.5	81	0	13.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DeShawn Wynn	11	130	621	4.8	7	56.5
M. Manson	12	81	365	4.5	2	30.4
Kestahn Moore	12	48	277	5.8	1	23.1

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chad Jackson	12	88	900	10.2	9	75.0
Dallas Baker	12	52	697	13.4	5	58.1
J. Cornelius	11	29	383	13.2	1	34.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Earl Everett	12	39	33	72
Brandon Siler	12	33	31	64
Jarvis Herring	12	38	25	63

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Jarvis Moss	11	7.5	54
Reggie Nelson	11	4.0	32
Brandon Siler	12	4.0	21

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Vernell Brown	3	63	21.0	1
Earl Everett	2	7	3.5	0
Jarvis Herring	2	26	13.0	0

GEORGIA BULLDOGS

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
10-3	6-2

(lost to West Virginia in the Sugar Bowl, 38-35)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Western Kentucky	
S.9	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-15
S.16	UAB	
S.23	Colorado	
S.30	@MISSISSIPPI	
O.7	Tennessee	27-14
O.14	Vanderbilt	34-17
O.21	Mississippi State	23-10
O.28	@FLORIDA*	10-14
N.4	@KENTUCKY	45-13
N.11	@AUBURN	30-31
N.25	Georgia Tech	14-7

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It wouldn't be at all surprising to see a rematch between these two old rivals three weeks later in Atlanta.

** at Jacksonville, Fla.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

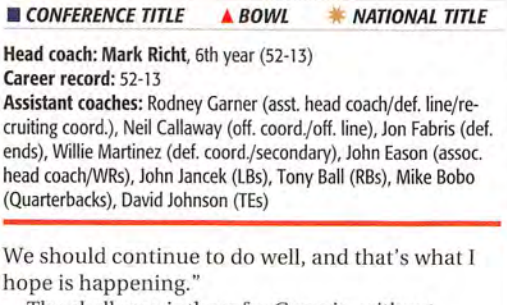
Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/22

OFFENSE		
QB	13	Joe Tereshinski (6-3, 217, Sr.)
FB	36	Brannan Southerland (6-0, 242, r-So.)
TB	20	Thomas Brown (5-8, 185, Jr.)
ST	79	Ken Shackleford (6-5, 315, Sr.)
SG	75	Fernando Velasco (6-4, 315, Jr.)
C	70	Nick Jones (6-3, 295, Sr.)
TG	67	Chester Adams (6-4, 320, Jr.)
TT	72	Daniel Inman (6-7, 319, Sr.)
TE	87	Martrez Milner (6-4, 240, Sr.)
SE	1	Mohamed Massaquoi (6-2, 198, So.)
FL	88	Kenneth Harris (6-3, 214, r-So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	99	Charles Johnson (6-2, 262, Jr.)
DT	90	Ray Gant (6-2, 277, Sr.)
DT	95	Jeff Owens (6-3, 280, So.)
DE	94	Quentin Moses (6-5, 250, Sr.)
SLB	12	Brandon Miller (6-4, 248, Jr.)
MLB	43	Jarvis Jackson (6-2, 218, Sr.)
WLB	45	Tony Taylor (6-1, 237, Sr.)
SC	29	Thomas Flowers (5-10, 186, Jr.)
WC	8	Paul Oliver (6-0, 205, Jr.)
FS	30	Kelin Johnson (6-1, 192, Jr.)
ROV	25	Tra Battle (5-11, 176, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	96	Brandon Coutu (6-0, 185, Jr.)
P	95	Gordon Ely-Kelso (6-2, 215, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Sanford Stadium (92,746)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mark Richt, 6th year (52-13)
Career record: 52-13
Assistant coaches: Rodney Garner (asst. head coach/def. line/recruiting coord.), Neil Callaway (off. coord./off. line), Jon Fabris (def. ends), Willie Martinez (def. coord./secondary), John Eason (assoc. head coach/WRs), John Jancek (LBs), Tony Ball (RBs), Mike Bobo (Quarterbacks), David Johnson (TEs)

SEC EAST

Moses has promised land covered on defense, but who'll be the next David Greene for Dawgs?

Skeptics wondered how Georgia could continue to win at a double-digit, championship-caliber clip last year after the Bulldogs lost David Greene and David Pollack to graduation. All they did was line up behind players like quarterback D.J. Shockley and free safety Greg Blue and won the SEC title for the second time in four years.

Skeptics are wondering again how Georgia will be able to maintain the roll that has seen the Bulldogs average 11 wins a season the last four years, this time without players like Shockley or Blue, tight end Leonard Pope or defensive tackle Kedric Golston.

Georgia Coach Mark Richt has heard the questions.

Like the Florida State teams he used to coach on that just kept winning and winning year after year, Richt and his Bulldogs keep coming up with the answers.

"People said, 'How are you going to survive without Greene and Pollack?'" Richt says. "I never really sweated it too much. We've recruited well and we all know what we're doing. We should continue to do well, and that's what I hope is happening."

The challenge is there for Georgia, without question. The Bulldogs lost half their starters from the team that crushed LSU 34-14 in the SEC Championship Game, then saw its rally fall short 38-35 against West Virginia in the Sugar Bowl.

How to get back there again is the challenge for a new wave of Georgia players who have a weighty legacy to live up to.

As is so often the case, Georgia's fortunes start with its quarterback.

Senior Joe Tereshinski is cast in much the same role that Shockley was a year ago: a career understudy given his chance finally to star on the big stage. Shockley's turn in the spotlight resulted in an SEC championship and All-SEC recognition for himself. Obviously, the 6-foot-3, 217-pound Tereshinksi—who completed 25 of 49 passes for 371 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions last year—has a lot to live up to. Or he may find himself in the shadows once again. Redshirt freshman Joe Cox (6-1, 200) shined in the spring game while Tereshinski struggled. Some are pinning their hopes to another freshman, Matthew Stafford (6-3, 210).

Coming out of the spring, the only thing Richt would commit to was that Tereshinski is the No. 1 man going into the fall. Who is No. 1 when Georgia opens Sept. 2 against Western Kentucky involves some guesswork, much more than has surrounded the quarterback position at Georgia in many years.

"We're still trying to figure out who our quarterback will be," Richt says. "Right now, Joe is the first guy going into the fall, but I'm not sure where we'll fall in after that. Eight practices out of our first game with Western Kentucky, we'll have it narrowed down to two."

Georgia's tailback depth chart is filled with juniors—Thomas Brown (5-8, 185), Kregg Lumpkin (6-1, 220), Danny Ware (6-1, 223) and Jason Johnson (5-9, 191). Though he's the least physically imposing of the foursome, it was Brown who distanced himself from the rest during the spring. After leading Georgia in rushing for the second straight year (147 carries, 736 yards, 4 TDs), it appears Brown has put himself in position to get the majority of the carries again.

The spring was a tough one for Georgia's receiver corps as five wideouts missed some or all of the practice sessions with injuries. One, Sean Bailey, won't return until 2007. When the other players'

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Matthew Stafford**, QB, 6-3, 210 *Texas prep superstar is prize recruit.*
2	**Reshad Jones**, DB, 6-2, 180 *Cornerback may see early action.*
3	**Justin Anderson**, OL, 6-5, 320 *Small-school blocker has NFL size.*
4	**NaDerris Ward**, TE, 6-5, 247 *How did this prospect leave California?*
5	**Akeem Hebron**, DB, 6-1, 195 *Finding best position is key for this superb athlete.*

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injuries heal, Mohamed Massaquoi and Kenneth Harris are expected to step into starting roles. Massaquoi had 38 catches for 505 yards and two scores last year, while Harris caught 11 passes for 216 yards and a touchdown. New tight end Martrez Milner takes over for Pope but has always been plagued by drops throughout his career.

Nick Jones (6-3, 295) moves from left guard to center for his senior season. Replacing him will be Fernando Velasco (6-4, 315) or Zeb McKinzey (6-3, 285). Ken Shackleford (6-5, 315) takes over at left tackle for Daniel Inman (6-7, 319), who was switched to right tackle. Chester Adams (6-4, 320) takes over for Max Jean-Gilles at right guard.

Right from the start in spring practice, Georgia coaches started moving players around on defense trying to find the best lineup.

First, they flipped Tony Taylor (6-1, 237) and Jarvis Jackson (6-2, 218), with Taylor moving to weakside linebacker and Jackson to the middle. Taylor was a weakside linebacker in 2003, missed all of 2004 and played inside last year. Cornerbacks Paul Oliver (6-0, 205) and Thomas Flowers (5-10, 186) also switched sides of the defense.

Defensive end Quentin Moses made a big, David Pollack-like name for himself last year with 11.5 sacks, then like Pollack decided to return for his senior year instead of turning pro. But it was fellow end Charles Johnson (6-2, 262) who made the biggest noise in the spring, having shed some 18 pounds since the Sugar Bowl and turning himself into a swift offensive disrupter. Ray Gant, formerly listed as nose tackle, and Jeff Owens man the tackle spots as Georgia morphs into a more traditional 4-3 defense.

Backup strongside linebacker Danny Verdun-Wheeler (6-2, 244) was one of the many to miss spring practice with injuries, leaving more practice time for Brandon Miller (6-4, 248). Georgia is thin there and positively green in the secondary, where only senior roverback Tra Battle, a former walk-on, returns as a starter. Kelin Johnson takes over from Blue at free safety.

Georgia has no worries in the kicking department with placekicker Brandon Coutu and punter Gordon Ely-Kelso returning for their junior and senior seasons, respectively. Coutu has made all 43 of his career extra-point attempts and was exceptionally accurate on field goals last season, making 23 of 29. Ely-Kelso was second in the SEC last season at 42.9 yards per kick, helping the Bulldogs rank eighth nationally with a 38.7 net-punting average. Thomas and Remarcus Brown will handle kickoff-return duties, while Flowers returns punts.

An early trip to South Carolina on Sept. 9 will test Georgia's ability to be a contender in the SEC East. Florida awaits in Jacksonville on Oct. 28, a game that could be for the inside track to the SEC Championship Game. A Nov. 11 trip to Auburn, Georgia's final SEC game, will be the last of 11 straight grueling weeks for the Bulldogs and may be a preview of this year's title twosome.

But to get back there, to maintain its heady success, Georgia needs to find the right trigger man to play behind center, as it did last year. Right now, even though Richt plays it cool, everyone who cares about Georgia football is sweating it out, wondering just who that will be.

NEXT BIG THING

QUENTIN MOSES, senior defensive end

Mario Williams dominated the headlines last spring when he became the NFL's No. 1 draft choice.

Quentin Moses may be in the same position next April.

The Georgia defensive end has all the talent to become a dominant superstar, and could be one of the top players taken in the NFL Draft. Notre Dame's Brady Quinn is the early favorite to hear his name called first next April, but don't count out Moses, who is coming off a season in which he had 44 tackles, 11.5 sacks, 20.5 tackles for loss and 38 quarterback hurries.

If he can turn just a few of those hurries into sacks, he will certainly get his ticket punched.

Moses is not thinking about next year's draft status. The only thing on his mind is improving so he can help the Bulldogs become a better football team. If he needs any help keeping his mind on his business, he gets it from his mother, Claudette Smith, who won't allow her son to become too impressed by his own accomplishments.

Instead of gushing over her son, she points out the play of former Bulldog and current Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Odell Thurman and lets him know that he should aspire to meet his standards.

"She makes remarks," Moses says. "I'm highly critical of myself, but she is, too."

After a Bulldog home game, Smith usually waits for her son and lets him know what she thinks of her son's performance. "I want to see you hit him like Odell did. Get one of them [former Bulldog free safety] Greg Blue hits," she jokes with Quentin. "Anybody can wrap them up. I want you to hit them."

Smith was reported to be quite a speedster in her younger years as a track athlete, and Moses has the kind of high-revving motor to cause havoc in the SEC. He comes around the corner with a low center of gravity and a nose for the quarterback.

"I guess people consider me an edge-rusher type of guy," Moses says. "But I always have people tell me how fast my mom was. She was the fastest thing around."

Perhaps, but the smart money is on her son to show his quickness this fall.

—Steve Silverman

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	GEORGIA	OPP
SCORING	384	213
Points Per Game	29.5	16.4
FIRST DOWNS	258	229
Rushing	106	114
Passing	132	101
Penalty	20	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2108	1870
Yards gained rushing	2351	2355
Yards lost rushing	243	485
Rushing Attempts	455	486
Average Per Rush	4.6	3.8
Average Per Game	162.2	143.8
TDs Rushing	16	17
PASSING YARDAGE	2977	2205
Att-Comp-Int	363-201-7	369-211-16
Average Per Pass	8.2	6.0
Average Per Catch	14.8	10.5
Average Per Game	229.0	169.6
TDs Passing	26	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	5085	4075
Total Plays	818	855
Average Per Play	6.2	4.8
Average Per Game	391.2	313.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-545	54-994
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-456	18-159
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-162	7-82
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.5	18.4
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	13.8	8.8
INT RETURN AVERAGE	10.1	11.7
FUMBLES-LOST	21-11	27-13
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-697	104-756
Average Per Game	53.6	58.2
PUNTS-YARDS	57-2443	80-3140
Average Per Punt	42.9	39.2
Net punt average	38.7	32.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:36	31:24
3RD-DOWN CONV.	60/163	70/188
3rd-Down Pct	37%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/12	9/16
4th-Down Pct	58%	56%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-290	20-90
MISC YARDS	0	25
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	45	27
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	23-30	9-12
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-45	24-25
ATTENDANCE	556206	253607
Games/Avg Per Game	6/92701	4/63402
Neutral Site Games		3/77559

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Georgia	80	115	101	88	384
Opponent	55	47	44	67	213

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

D.J. Shockley

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	148.26	310-173-5	55.8	2588	24	215.7

Joe Tereshinski

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	113.19	49-25-2	51.0	371	1	28.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Thomas Brown	12	147	736	5.0	4	61.3
Danny Ware	13	101	492	4.9	1	37.8
Kregg Lumpkin	13	66	335	5.1	3	25.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Leonard Pope	12	39	541	13.9	4	45.1
M. Massaquoi	13	38	505	13.3	2	38.8
B. McClendon	13	35	529	15.1	6	40.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Greg Blue	13	70	26	96
Jarvis Jackson	12	56	28	84
Tra Battle	12	48	23	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Quentin Moses	13	11.5	93
Will Thompson	13	5.0	41
Charles Johnson	13	4.0	37

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tim Jennings	4	79	19.8	1
Paul Oliver	3	30	10.0	0
Tra Battle	2	43	21.5	0

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Arron Sears, OL

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
5-6	3-5

Stadium: Neyland Stadium (104,079)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲ 10
2003	▲ 10
2002	▲ 8
2001	▲ 11

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Phillip Fulmer, 15th year (128-37)
Career record: 128-37
Assistant coaches: John Chavis (assoc. head coach/def. coord./LBs), David Cutcliffe (asst. head coach/off. coord./QBs), Greg Adkins (off. line), Matt Luke (TEs/recruiting coord.), Dan Brooks (def. line), Steve Caldwell (def. ends/special teams), Trooper Taylor (asst. head coach/WRs), Larry Slade (DBs), Kurt Roper (RBs)

Volunteers hope return of Cutcliffe to 'Rocky Top' will bring new life to the Tennessee offense

Since the SEC expanded and split into divisions in 1992, every SEC program has had its dismal seasons.

Last year, it was finally Tennessee's turn.

Until 2005, Tennessee had been the standard of consistency in the SEC going back to the dawn of divisional play. Along with their national championship and two SEC titles, the Volunteers had never won less than eight games in a season.

Last year, a promising 3-1 start that included a thrilling 30-27 overtime win at No. 3 LSU devolved into Orange crushed. The Vols dropped five of their last seven—including rare losses to South Carolina and Vanderbilt—to finish 5-6, their first losing season since 1988.

To get Tennessee back to its old winning ways, Coach Phillip Fulmer has gone old-school. During the offseason he lured former UT offensive coordinator and Ole Miss head coach David Cutcliffe back to Knoxville to breathe life into an offense that ranked 10th in the SEC in points scored a year ago.

"David adds a lot to our staff with his experience and enthusiasm," Fulmer says. "He did a great job getting the quarterbacks closer to where they need to be. I don't expect him to sprinkle magic dust on the offense and everything's fixed, but he'll be creative in what he's doing."

At most practices during the spring, Cutcliffe did nothing but work exclusively with junior quarterback Erik Ainge. With Rick Clausen gone, it's all up to Ainge to succeed or fail after playing in eight games last season, completing 66 of 145 passes for 737 yards with five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Sophomore Arian Foster (183 carries, 879 yards, 5 TDs) returns at tailback, while the Vols' top two receivers—Robert Meachem and Jayson Swain—are also back. The big question mark is the rebuilt front line, which would have lost every starter if left tackle Arron Sears hadn't decided to stay.

The Tennessee defense lost six of its starters off the front seven. The only one left is senior left tackle Justin Harrell, an All-SEC candidate.

"We have our work cut out," Fulmer says.

Senior Marvin Mitchell, who did start two of the last three games in 2005, leads the linebacker corps. Redshirt freshman Rico McCoy came out of the spring listed as the weakside backup to Ellix Wilson, but may push him out come August.

The secondary does return intact, led by junior Jonathan Hefney at free safety, the Vols' top returning tackler with 65 stops each of his first two seasons.

The special teams are solid with the return of placekicker James Wilhoit—the active SEC scoring leader with 229 career points—and punter Britton Colquitt, who averaged 41.2 yards per kick as a freshman. Colquitt's father Craig, cousin Jimmy and older brother Dustin all punted for Tennessee.

Even those who can't bear the sound of "Rocky Top" can't deny that the Vols don't duck anyone when it comes to their schedule. This season is no exception, as Tennessee takes on seven bowl teams, starting with a Sept. 2 date in Knoxville against California. Florida comes calling to renew its bitter rivalry with the Vols on Sept. 16, followed by Alabama on Oct. 21 and LSU on Nov. 4. Tennessee goes to Georgia this year on Oct. 7.

There is too much talent to expect a repeat of last year's 5-6 record. Of course, that was true last year, too. A trip to the SEC Championship Game would be an upset, but if Ainge blossoms under Cutcliffe, the Volunteers should again be spending the holidays preparing for a bowl game.

Still, a rival assistant coach sounds a warning that may need to be heeded: "All spring the [Tennessee] players were saying they were learning how to work again. Why does it take a new offensive coordinator to learn practice habits? More than anything, that's a red flag for Fulmer."

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	California	
S.9	Air Force	
S.16	Florida	7-16
S.23	Marshall	
S.30	@MEMPHIS	20-16
O.7	@GEORGIA	14-27
O.21	Alabama	3-6
O.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	15-16
N.4	LSU	30-27 (OT)
N.11	@ARKANSAS	
N.18	@VANDERBILT	24-28
N.25	Kentucky	27-8

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Volunteers' rebuilt defense will get an early baptism by fire from the Bears' highly sophisticated offense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/28

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Erik Ainge (6-6, 220, Jr.)
FB	45	Cory Anderson (6-3, 255, Sr.)
TB	27	Arian Foster (6-1, 215, So.)
LT	76	Arron Sears (6-4, 320, Sr.)
LG	75	Anthony Parker (6-3, 305, So.)
C	50	Josh McNeil (6-4, 290, Fr.)
RG	78	Ramon Foster (6-6, 325, So.)
RT	54	Eric Young (6-4, 310, Jr.)
TE	28	Chris Brown (6-3, 259, Jr.)
WR	3	Robert Meachem (6-3, 210, Jr.)
WR	1	Jayson Swain (6-1, 205, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	89	Antonio Reynolds (6-3, 260, Jr.)
DT	90	Turk McBride (6-4, 275, Jr.)
DT	92	Justin Harrell (6-4, 300, Sr.)
DE	91	Robert Ayres (6-3, 255, So.)
SLB	39	Ryan Karl (6-0, 225, Jr.)
MLB	40	Marvin Mitchell (6-3, 235, Sr.)
WLB	5	Rico McCoy (6-1, 215, r-Fr.)
CB	4	Jonathan Wade (6-0, 195, Sr.)
CB	29	Inquoris Johnson (5-9, 180, Jr.)
SS	24	Antwan Stewart (6-0, 195, Sr.)
FS	33	Jonathan Hefney (5-9, 185, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	25	James Wilhoit (5-10, 195, Sr.)
P	47	Britton Colquitt (6-3, 198, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Walter Fisher**, DE, 6-3, 265 *Junior-college standout should help soon.*
2	**Jacques McClendon**, OL, 6-3, 325 *Early Vols recruit has future potential.*
3	**Quintin Hancock**, WR, 6-2, 185 *Could be a prime-time player in future.*
4	**Ramone Johnson**, OL, 6-4, 305 *Illinois product could also play defense.*
5	**Brent Vinson**, WR, 6-2, 180 *Virginian hails from fertile recruiting area.*

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

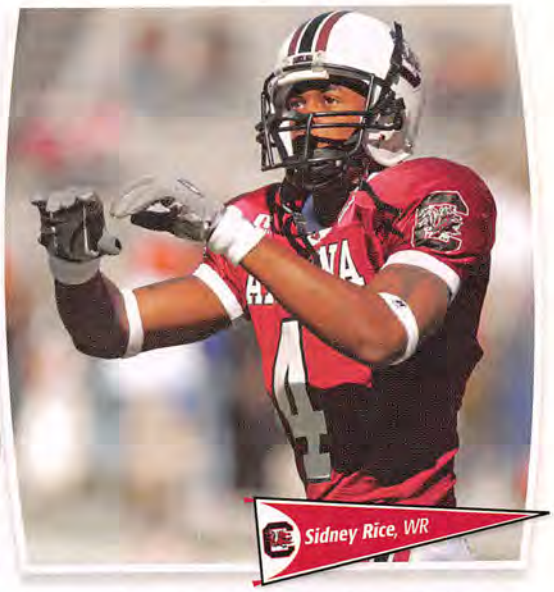
POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
7-5	5-3

(lost to Missouri in the Independence Bowl, 38-31)

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)



Gamecock offense will depend on Rice, Spurrier's next South Carolina treat

In the end, the 7-5 record that made South Carolina fans so happy in their first year under Steve Spurrier was only one win better than the 6-5 record that marked a dissatisfying end to the Lou Holtz regime.

The numbers, however, require closer examination. Within that 7-5 record was a 5-3 mark in the SEC. That was good enough for a tie for second in the Eastern Division with Florida, South Carolina's best finish since joining the SEC in 1992. In fact, the Gamecocks were within a victory of getting into the SEC Championship Game for the first time ever.

That 7-5 record also included USC's first-ever win at Tennessee and its first victory over Florida since 1939. Now, with a second year of Spurrier's offensive tutelage, one can understand why expectations are jumping off the charts in Gamecock Country.

Offensively, USC returns six starters, among them junior Blake Mitchell, who took the first snap in 11 of South Carolina's 12 games last season. But redshirt freshman Cade Thompson (6-2, 181 pounds) pushed him hard in the spring, leaving Spurrier in the role of having to defend the incumbent.

"Blake didn't play his best" in the spring game, Spurrier says. "But he's still the starter. But it was encouraging that Cade says, 'Hey, if something happens, I can go play.'"

Though South Carolina showed flashes of the superior Spurrier passing game last season, the running game that always was an underrated component of Spurrier's great Florida offenses was an anemic bystander. The Gamecocks eked out 95.2 yards per game rushing, ranking 108th of 117 Division I-A teams and 11th out of 12 in the SEC.

That may have changed with one play in South Carolina's spring game, the play when Cory Boyd broke free on a 71-yard run. Boyd, suspended all of last season, may still officially be the backup to sophomore Mike Davis. But he had Spurrier thinking back to his glorious, well-grounded days at Florida.

"He looks like a big-time back," Spurrier says. "There's no question about that."

The receiving corps has abundant talent, led by sophomore Sidney Rice, perhaps the next star in the Spurrier offensive constellation.

Kenny McKinley is the other starter at receiver, while senior Noah Whiteside (5-10, 180) is back from the broken leg he suffered in the 2005 spring game and is the Gamecocks' top option when USC goes to its frequent three-receiver sets.

The wild card in the receiver corps is senior Syvelle Newton, a former quarterback who's coming off Achilles surgery. South Carolina lists him as one of Rice's backups, but Spurrier also has the option to move him around to tailback or even safety.

Co-Defensive Coordinator John Thompson is gone, leaving the defense completely in the hands of Tyrone Nix. With Nix calling the formations, the Gamecocks will be expected to play more of a conventional 4-3 with fewer of the unorthodox looks that Thompson's defenses are known to throw at the offense.

The Gamecocks can also be expected to struggle on defense with just four starters returning. A ray of hope in the spring was the play of junior-college transfer Jasper Brinkley, who took charge at middle linebacker.

Ryan Succop will both kick and punt, but he needs to improve his consistency in both areas.

The schedule gets interesting right away. In Week Two, Georgia visits Columbia for a Sept. 9 showdown. South Carolina wraps up the season Nov. 25 at archrival Clemson.

But the most compelling game will be Nov. 11. That's when Spurrier takes the Gamecocks into Florida Field, a place where the Ol' Ball Coach is still mightily revered.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S.9	Georgia	15-17
S.16	Wofford	
S.23	Florida Atlantic	
S.28	Auburn	7-48
O.7	@KENTUCKY	44-16
O.21	@VANDERBILT	35-28
O.28	Tennessee	16-15
N.4	Arkansas	14-10
N.11	@FLORIDA	30-22
N.18	Middle Tennessee State	
N.25	@CLEMSON	9-13

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Who will get more cheers in Florida Field–Spurrier or the Gators?

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/24

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Blake Mitchell (6-3, 206, Jr.)
FB	39	Lanard Stafford (5-9, 242, Jr.)
TB	25	Mike Davis (5-9, 210, So.)
LT	75	Gurminder Thind (6-4, 286, So.)
LG	55	Thomas Coleman (6-3, 315, Sr.)
C	60	Chris White (6-3, 316, Sr.)
RG	67	James Thompson (6-3, 323, Jr.)
RT	77	Jamon Meredith (6-4, 290, Jr.)
TE	84	Jared Cook (6-5, 229, r-Fr.)
WR	4	Sidney Rice (6-3, 200, So.)
WR	11	Kenny McKinley (5-11, 181, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	41	Jordin Lindsey (6-3, 248, Jr.)
DT	79	Marque Hall (6-3, 291, Jr.)
NT	95	Nathan Pepper (6-1, 278, So.)
DE	99	Dakota Walker (6-3, 226, So.)
OLB	53	Marvin Sapp (5-11, 216, So.)
MLB	52	Jasper Brinkley (6-2, 250, Jr.)
OLB	35	Brent Davis (6-1, 204, r-Fr.)
CB	8	Fred Bennett (6-1, 199, Sr.)
CB	5	Carlos Thomas (5-10, 174, So.)
ROV	26	Brandon Issac (6-2, 191, Sr.)
FS	17	Mychal Belcher (6-0, 190, Fr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	14	Ryan Succop (6-3, 214, So.)
P	14	Ryan Succop (6-3, 214, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Head coach: Steve Spurrier, 2nd year (7-5)
Career record: 149-45-2
Assistant coaches: Robert Gillespie (RBs), Dave Wommack (OLBs), Fred Chatham (TEs/special teams), Brad Lawing (def. line), Tyrone Nix (def. coord./ILBs), David Reaves (QBs asst./recruiting coord.), John Hunt (off. line), Ron Cooper (asst. head coach/secondary), Steve Spurrier Jr. (WRs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Chris Smelley**, QB, 6-3, 210 *Is he the Gamecocks QB of the future?*
2	**Hutch Eckerson**, OL, 6-6, 285 *This blocker could play early.*
3	**Heath Batchelor**, OL, 6-7, 290 *Alabama product should contribute.*
4	**Pierre Andrews**, OL, 6-3, 285 *North Carolina all-state pick never lost a prep game.*
5	**Mauricus Brown**, WR, 6-0, 170 *Fast track star has bright future.*

LEXINGTON

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	2
2003	4
2002	7
2001	2

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Rich Brooks, 4th Year (9-25)
Career record: 100-134-4
Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium
Capacity: 67,606
Official athletic Web site: www.ukathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	@LOUISVILLE	24-31
S.9	Texas State	
S.16	Mississippi	7-13
S.23	@FLORIDA	28-49
S.30	Central Michigan	
O.7	South Carolina	16-44
O.14	@LSU	
O.28	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	13-7
N.4	Georgia	13-45
N.11	Vanderbilt	48-43
N.18	Louisiana-Monroe	
N. 25	@ TENNESSEE	8-27

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Wildcats can win the ones they're supposed to, a bowl trip may ride on this visit to Knoxville.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/21

OFFENSE		
QB	15	Curtis Pulley (6-4, 203, So.)
FB	38	John Conner (5-11, 243, Fr.)
TB	22	Rafael Little (5-10, 198, Jr.)
LT	69	Aaron Miller (6-5, 300, So.)
LG	78	Christian Johnson (6-4, 325, So.)
C	62	Matt McCutchan (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RG	72	Michael Aitcheson (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RT	57	Hayden Lane (6-6, 283, Sr.)
TE	18	Jacob Tamme (6-5, 240, Jr.)
WR	8	DeMoreo Ford (5-10, 189, So.)
WR	19	Keenan Burton (6-2, 195, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	9	Durrell White (6-3, 260, Sr.)
LT	45	Lamar Mills (6-1, 295, Sr.)
RT	98	Myron Pryor (6-1, 307, So.)
RE	20	Dominic Lewis (6-3, 263, Jr.)
SLB	46	Joe Schuler (6-3, 233, Jr.)
MLB	56	Braxton Kelley (6-0, 226, So.)
WLB	16	Wesley Woodyard (6-1, 212, Jr.)
LCB	39	Shomari Moore (5-9, 180, So.)
RCB	7	David Jones (5-10, 194, So.)
FS	2	Marcus McClinton (6-1, 214, So.)
SS	35	Roger Williams (6-0, 200, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	97	J.J. Housley (5-10, 186, So.)
P	44	Tim Masthay (6-2, 200, So.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **2-6 SEC**

This could be the year the Kentucky Wildcats turn their football fortunes around.

They've certainly paid for their gridiron success in blood. In all, the Wildcats have had 31 injuries that required surgery since last season. Twelve starters or key backups didn't practice in the spring. Half of the starting defense was sidelined.

"It was by far the most I've ever been around," Coach Rich Brooks says. "It was almost like the 'Twilight Zone.' Some of this stuff you just couldn't believe."

The injuries should lead to greater competition in the fall. That's already started at quarterback, where sophomore Curtis Pulley was running the offense by the end of the spring ahead of 11-game starter Andre Woodson.

Both were working under the direction of the new quarterbacks coach, Randy Sanders, who comes to Lexington after stepping down as Tennessee's offensive coordinator late last season.

Tailback Rafael Little, who rushed for 1,045 yards and nine touchdowns last year, dislocated his wrist in the spring and was one of the many Wildcats who required surgery. He'll be back this fall, but will have to help take up the slack for a receiver corps that lost three of its top four players. Junior Keenan Burton (365 yards, 2 TDs) is the best of the bunch.

Defensive tackle Myron Pryor emerged as a true freshman last season and may well be Kentucky's best player on that side of the ball. Incoming Micah Johnson is expected to push for starting time at middle linebacker with last year's starter Braxton Kelly recovering from (what else?) an injured knee, while Ben McGrath is also in the mix.

It didn't help the defense much when starting cornerback Bo Smith was dismissed in May for violating team rules.

The schedule sets up well for a potential rebound season. The Wildcats open with a serious degree of difficulty at Louisville, but five of the home games are highly winnable against Texas State, Ole Miss, Central Michigan, Vanderbilt and Louisiana-Monroe.

A road win at Mississippi State could put Kentucky in line for its first non-losing season since 2002.

NASHVILLE, TEN

VANDERBILT COMMODORES

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	2
2003	2
2002	2
2001	2

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Bobby Johnson, 5th year (11-35)
Career record: 71-71
Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium
Capacity: 39,790
Official athletic Web site: www.vucommodores.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ MICHIGAN	
S.9	@ALABAMA	
S.16	Arkansas	28-24
S.23	Tennessee State	
S.30	Temple	
O.7	@MISSISSIPPI	31-23
O.14	@GEORGIA	17-34
O.21	South Carolina	28-35
O.28	@DUKE	
N.4	Florida	42-49 (OT)
N.11	@KENTUCKY	43-48
N.18	Tennessee	28-24

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Commodores have a chance to make a big early season splash in The Big House.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/22

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Chris Nickson (6-2, 210, So.)
FB	17	Steven Bright (6-4, 240, Sr.)
TB	22	Cassen Jackson-Garrison (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LT	74	Chris Williams (6-6, 315, Jr.)
LG	78	Josh Eames (6-5, 310, Jr.)
C	53	Hamilton Holliday (6-3, 292, Jr.)
RG	64	Merritt Kirchoffer (6-5, 320, Jr.)
RT	72	Brian Stamper (6-5, 305, Sr.)
TE	83	Brad Allen (6-3, 240, So.)
WR	10	Earl Bennett (6-1, 202, So.)
WR	82	Marlon White (6-4, 205, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	43	David Carter (6-5, 260, Jr.)
DT	94	Ray Brown (6-3, 300, Sr.)
DT	54	Theo Horrocks (6-3, 290, Jr.)
DE	46	Chris Booker (6-4, 260, Sr.)
SLB	24	Marcus Buggs (5-11, 232, Jr.)
MLB	47	Jonathan Goff (6-4, 240, Jr.)
WLB	40	Kevin Joyce (6-3, 224, Sr.)
CB	26	Jared Fagan (5-10, 180, So.)
CB	14	Josh Allen (5-9, 184, So.)
FS	35	Ryan Hamilton (6-1, 205, r-Fr.)
SS	33	Reshard Langford (6-2, 218, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	75	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 180, So.)
P	75	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 180, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **3-5 SEC**

In many ways the 2005 season was a new day for the Vanderbilt Commodores.

They were led by a quarterback, Jay Cutler, who went on to become the 11th pick of the first round by the Denver Broncos. He capped a stellar Commodore career by leading Vandy to a 28-24 win over Tennessee, in Knoxville no less, its first victory over the Volunteers since 1982.

But in some ways it was the same old Vandy. The Commodores finished 5-6 after a 4-0 start and could point to a 17-15 loss to Middle Tennessee, a 49-42 overtime loss to Florida and a 48-43 loss to Kentucky as defeats that kept Vandy from a bowl game.

The Commodores will be farther away from bowl contention this year after losing Cutler and linebacker Moses Osemwegie, their leading tackler. But it won't be a complete rebuilding year, just one in which Vandy hopes not to lose too much of the momentum it built in 2005.

Vanderbilt coaches wouldn't name a starting quarterback coming out of the spring, but all signs point to Chris Nickson over MacKenzi Adams. Nickson is more of a dual threat, allowing Vanderbilt to employ more of an option attack than it did with Cutler.

Linebacker Darnell Martemus was moved temporarily to running back in the spring with tailback Jeff Jennings recovering from an ACL injury and Cassen Jackson-Garrison battling injuries. Martemus is expected to go back to defense unless Jennings can't recover in time.

The loss of Osemwegie at linebacker is substantial, but Vanderbilt has always had a deep linebacker corps. Kevin Joyce takes over at weakside 'backer, working alongside Jonathan Goff and Marcus Buggs.

A battle at free safety will carry over to the fall between Ben Koger and Ryan Hamilton. Wide receiver Earl Bennett and likely freshman receiver Alex Washington will return kicks.

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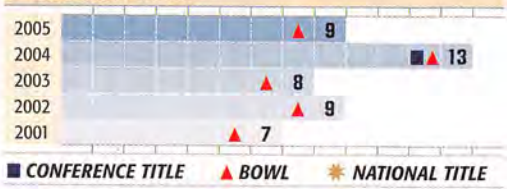
AUBURN TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Tommy Tuberville, 8th year (60-27)
Career record: 85-47
Assistant coaches: Will Muschamp (def. coord./secondary), Al Borges (off. coord./QBs), Hugh Nall (off. line), Eddie Gran (RBs), Greg Knox (WRs/recruiting coord.), James Willis (LBs), Terry Price (def. ends), Don Dunn (def. tackles), Steve Ensminger (TEs)

With Cox-sure QB and hot Irons in backfield, Tigers' offense will roar

Last December, after Georgia beat LSU in the SEC Championship Game, you could find plenty of people between Athens and Baton Rouge who would have been eager to argue that Auburn was actually the best team in the conference.

After all, Auburn rallied to win a 31-30 thriller at Georgia and, if not for missed field goal off the upright in overtime, it might have beaten LSU. Overall, it was Auburn that looked the most impressive as it finished the balance of its season 9-2.

Then came the Capital One Bowl, when Auburn was dominated by a Wisconsin team short on talent but eager to send Coach Barry Alvarez out a winner. That 24-10 mail-it-in defeat will probably cost Auburn more than a few votes in the preseason polls.

That's a shame, really, because this Auburn team bears some striking similarities to the 2004 version, the one that went 13-0 but started too low in the polls to crack the top two and get into the BCS National Championship Game.

This year, Auburn will have to make the climb again and hope to get a few beneficial upsets thrown its way, the breaks the Tigers didn't get two years ago when Southern California and Oklahoma marched lock step to their showdown in the Orange Bowl.

Still, there is plenty of reason for optimism, and coming out of spring practice Coach Tommy Tuberville wasn't trying to hide it.

"We've still got a lot of question marks and a lot of work to be done," Tuberville says. "But mentally and physically, we had a very good spring practice."

Tuberville can feel very good about several of the key components he has coming back on offense: hard-charging tailback Kenny Irons, quarterback Brandon Cox and Offensive Coordinator Al Borges.

The Auburn offense, in general, and Cox, in particular, flourished in their first year in Borges' system. Auburn led the SEC in total offense (409.8 ypg) and scoring offense (32.2 ppg) and was second in rushing offense (194.1 ypg).

After a nightmarish four-interception debut against Georgia Tech, a 23-14 Auburn defeat, Cox got better and better. He threw just four more interceptions the rest of the season, completing 177 of 306 passes for 2,324 yards and 15 touchdowns.

As a result, the battle in the spring wasn't to find a competitor for Cox, but to identify his backup. Blake Field edged out fellow sophomore Calvin Booker for that distinction.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Greg Smith**, DL, 6-3, 315 *Top junior-college prospect should shine.*
2	**Ben Tate**, RB, 5-11, 214 *Is Maryland product next Tiger super back?*
3	**Tim Hawthorne**, WR, 6-3, 205 *Big, physical receiver who has potential.*
4	**Mike Blanc**, DL, 6-4, 265 *Top prospect from Auburn's Florida pipeline area.*
5	**Neil Caudle**, QB, 6-3, 204 *Hopes to rebound from prep injuries.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
9-3	7-1

(lost to Wisconsin in the Capital One Bowl, 24-10)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Washington State	
S.9	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	28-0
S. 16	LSU	17-20 (OT)
S.23	Buffalo	
S.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	48-7
O.7	Arkansas	34-17
O.14	Florida	
O.21	Tulane	
O.28	@MISSISSIPPI	27-3
N.4	Arkansas State	
N.11	Georgia	31-30
N.18	@ALABAMA	28-18

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Iron Bowl is big, but the winner of this game has gone to the SEC Championship Game five of the last six years.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/15

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Brandon Cox (6-2, 201, Jr.)
FB	45	Mike McLaughlin (6-1, 236, So.)
TB	23	Kenny Irons (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	77	King Dunlap (6-8, 313, Jr.)
LG	69	Ben Grubbs (6-3, 301, Sr.)
C	50	Joe Cope (6-0, 276, Sr.)
RG	76	Tim Duckworth (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	72	Leon Hart (6-4, 300, Jr.)
TE	87	Cole Bennett (6-4, 261, Sr.)
WR	86	Courtney Taylor (6-2, 202, Sr.)
WR	3	Robert Dunn (6-0, 177, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	48	Marquies Gunn (6-4, 254, Sr.)
DT	97	Josh Thompson (6-0, 302, Jr.)
DT	92	Chris Browder (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DE	54	Quentin Groves (6-3, 250, Jr.)
LB	35	Will Herring (6-3, 220, Sr.)
LB	21	Karibi Dede (6-0, 216, Sr.)
LB	55	Merrill Johnson (6-0, 199, So.)
CB	4	David Irons (5-11, 188, Sr.)
CB	24	Jonathan Wilhite (5-11, 182, Jr.)
FS	9	Tristan Davis (5-10, 204, So.)
SS	33	Eric Brock (6-1, 213, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	37	John Vaughn (6-1, 197, Sr.)
P	30	Kody Bliss (5-10, 177, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Similarly, an Irons curtain has descended over the Auburn tailback position. Kenny Irons, that is. He bulled his way to 1,293 yards rushing on 256 carries, just over five yards per touch and 13 TDs.

The receiving corps isn't quite so settled. Auburn lost its top three receivers, with senior Courtney Taylor (22 catches, 278 yards) the most experienced set of hands returning. Sophomore Robert Dunn emerged as the top receiver at the other spot, but had just two catches for 29 yards in 2005. Senior Cole Bennett takes over for Cooper Wallace at tight end.

"Courtney Taylor—really being the lone starter coming back—his leadership stood out in trying to bring the young guys along," Tuberville says.

The heart of the offensive line returns—All-SEC candidate Tim Duckworth and Ben Grubbs at the guards and Joe Cope at center—but Auburn went in search of tackles in the spring.

"We were looking for offensive linemen to revamp again after losing two to the NFL," Tuberville says. "King Dunlap had a very good spring [at left tackle]. He's continued to improve. Leon Hart and Jonathan Palmer, both of those guys were fighting it out for the starting position at right tackle."

Will Muschamp, a familiar name to Auburn football fans, takes over at defensive coordinator. He replaces David Gibbs, who was essentially on loan from the NFL for one year, going to Auburn from the Denver Broncos and leaving for a job with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Muschamp spent last year in the NFL, having followed former LSU Coach Nick Saban to the Miami Dolphins. He was defensive coordinator at LSU for three seasons under Saban and played his college ball at Georgia.

Fans can expect Auburn to play a blitzing, aggressive style under Muschamp. But his direction won't be the only change on the Auburn defense this fall.

"We did some experimenting" in the spring, Tuberville says. "Probably the biggest change was moving Will Herring, who we've had starting the past couple of years at safety, to linebacker. That worked out very well. We're going to have some new guys at linebacker next year."

Merrill Johnson missed most of the spring with an injury, allowing Tray Blackmon to move up into the starting spot at weakside linebacker. Herring (team leader with 69 tackles in '05) will play strongside, while Karibi Dede takes over in the middle.

Herring's departure was only part of the shakeup in the secondary. Tristan Davis took over

at free safety after playing running back last year. David Irons didn't participate in spring drills because of academic concerns, but Kenny Irons' younger brother is expected back at left corner in the fall. Eric Brock is at strong safety while Jonathan Wilhite is at right corner.

"On defense we've got a lot of quickness," Tuberville says. "We've got a lot of work to do [in the fall]. We've got a lot of rough spots, but we made a lot of improvement [in the spring]."

Senior placekicker John Vaughn has fashioned one of the best kicking careers in Auburn history, having made 128 of 129 extra points (50-of-50 last year) and ranking in the top 10 in school annals with 30 field goals made. But it is the one-for-six field-goal performance at LSU—including the one that hit the upright in overtime—Vaughn will be remembered for and will try to atone this season. Meanwhile, senior punter Kody Bliss would be quite content to repeat the numbers that earned him first-team All-SEC honors last season: a conference-leading 44.9 yards per punt (45.8 yards a kick in SEC games).

Coming out of spring, Taylor looked as if he will be Auburn's kick returner, though Tuberville says he will keep his options open going into the fall.

One of the biggest reasons to favor Auburn in the SEC West is its schedule. The Tigers have to travel to South Carolina for a Thursday night ESPN game on Sept. 28 and finish the season with the Iron Bowl on Nov. 18 at Alabama. But the other road trips to Mississippi State and Ole Miss register as Auburn victories. It is Week Three of the schedule (Sept. 16) that could decide the SEC West. That's the date LSU visits Jordan-Hare Stadium in what has become one of the SEC's most pivotal series. The home team has won this game every year since 2000, and five of the last six seasons the LSU-Auburn winner has gone on to represent the West in the SEC Championship Game.

There is little reason to argue with history. Once again, it's Auburn's turn. The only question is whether the Tigers can make enough noise to be a player on the national championship scene.

NEXT BIG THING

COURTNEY TAYLOR, senior wide receiver

The season can't start soon enough for Courtney Taylor.

The Auburn wide receiver is hungry and ready to make a statement. Nagging injuries—primarily a debilitating high-ankle sprain—limited him throughout the 2005 season and held him to 22 catches for 278 yards and a touchdown.

Considering that the 6-2, 202-pound Taylor was a consensus preseason All-SEC player in 2005, the lack of production was very unsatisfying. The only thing Taylor can do to get that bitter taste out of his mouth is stay healthy and put together a memorable 2006 campaign.

Circumstances may be in his favor. The Tigers were blessed with a substantial receiving crew in 2005 that included Ben Obomanu, Devin Aromashodu and Anthony Mix. All have moved on and that means Taylor should be the main receiving threat for Auburn QB Brandon Cox.

More will be expected from Taylor than simply increasing his production. He is expected to become one of the leaders on offense and help show a young receiver like Prechae Rodriguez (13 catches for 240 yards in 2005) the finer points of the game.

Taylor comes into the year hoping to use the 2004 season as his jumping-off point because of his inability to shake last year's ankle problem. Taylor caught 43 passes for 737 yards and six touchdowns two years ago and showed a propensity to win jump-ball battles. Taylor is an outstanding leaper who can outmuscle and outfight most defensive backs in the air.

A renewed emphasis on the running game by Auburn Coach Tommy Tuberville may also help Taylor this season. Tuberville did not think his team was "hard-nosed" enough on offense a year ago and he wants to establish a running game that will take some pressure off the defense. If running back Kenny Irons (1,293 yards in 2005) can do that, it will open things up for big plays in the passing game—and a banner year for Taylor.

—Steve Silverman

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	AUBURN	OPP
SCORING	386	186
Points Per Game	32.2	15.5
FIRST DOWNS	257	193
Rushing	124	81
Passing	122	97
Penalty	11	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2329	1395
Yards gained rushing	2646	1782
Yards lost rushing	317	387
Rushing Attempts	481	396
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.5
Average Per Game	194.1	116.2
TDs Rushing	28	11
PASSING YARDAGE	2589	2388
Att-Comp-Int	339-195-8	360-202-8
Average Per Pass	7.6	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.3	11.8
Average Per Game	215.8	199.0
TDs Passing	19	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	4918	3783
Total Plays	820	756
Average Per Play	6.0	5.0
Average Per Game	409.8	315.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	26-711	37-777
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-241	20-203
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	8-67	8-88
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	27.3	21.0
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.5	10.1
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.4	11.0
FUMBLES-LOST	17-10	22-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	67-538	78-567
Average Per Game	44.8	47.2
PUNTS-YARDS	47-2090	67-2699
Average Per Punt	44.5	40.3
Net punt average	37.6	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:48	29:12
3RD-DOWN CONV.	73/158	55/169
3rd-Down Pct	46%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/13	6/14
4th-Down Pct	69%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-236	21-175
MISC YARDS	23	10
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	50	20
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-20	15-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-50	19-19
ATTENDANCE	589124	317602
Games/Avg Per Game	7/84161	4/79400
Neutral Site Games		1/57221

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Auburn	83	127	82	94	0	386
Opponent	47	37	27	72	3	186

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brandon Cox

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	132.59	306-177-8	57.8	2324	15	211.3

Blake Field

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
5	150.99	31-17-0	54.8	237	3	47.4

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kenny Irons	12	256	1293	5.1	13	107.8
Brad Lester	8	52	339	6.5	5	42.4
Tre Smith	12	56	285	5.1	3	23.8

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ben Obomanu	12	33	357	10.8	5	29.8
D. Aromashodu	12	26	494	19.0	4	41.2
Anthony Mix	12	23	288	12.5	2	24.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Will Herring	12	34	35	69
Travis Williams	11	37	31	68
Antarrious Williams	12	31	20	51

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Stanley McClover	11	8.0	55
Wayne Dickens	12	6.5	37
Quentin Groves	12	6.0	45

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Steve Gandy	1	29	29.0	0
Zach Gilbert	1	26	26.0	0
Eric Brock	1	11	11.0	0

LSU TIGERS

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

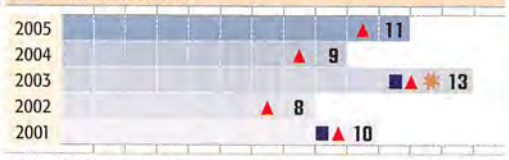
OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
11-2	7-1

(beat Miami in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, 40-3)

Stadium: Tiger Stadium (91,600)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Les Miles, 2nd year (11-2)
Career record: 38-23
Assistant coaches: Bo Pelini (def. coord.), Jimbo Fisher (off. coord./QBs), Bradley Peveto (special teams coord./LBs), Stacy Searels (off. line), Karl Dunbar (asst. head coach/def. line), Josh Henson (TEs/recruiting coord.), Doug Mallory (DBs), Todd Monken (WRs/passing game coord.), Larry Porter (RBs)

Despite last season's impressive 11-2 campaign, Tigers still have Miles to go with fans in the Bayou

Maybe Les Miles knew something everyone else didn't all along.

When Miles went to LSU in January 2005 to replace the highly successful and highly respected Nick Saban, the general response from the Purple-and-Gold Nation could be charitably described as lukewarm.

People didn't dislike Miles, but they weren't fired up about him either. Their worst fears seemed to be confirmed in Game Two when LSU blew a 21-0 point halftime lead and lost 30-27 in overtime to a Tennessee team that would finish 5-6.

Funny thing about Miles and his Tigers, though: Just when everyone seemed ready to write them off, they came back stronger than ever.

The Tigers had to open on the road at Arizona State, pulling out a 35-31 victory after Hurricane Katrina forced the LSU campus to be converted into a M*A*S*H unit. The Tennessee game was moved to a Monday night (Sept. 26) in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

As Louisiana picked up the pieces, so did the Tigers. With no margin for error in the SEC West race, they reeled off nine straight wins—LSU's longest in-season winning streak since starting 9-0 in 1973—to reach the SEC Championship Game.

There the Tigers were taken apart by Georgia 34-14, seeming to prove Miles' detractors right again. But LSU returned to Atlanta in late December and was even more formidable in crushing then-ninth-ranked Miami 40-3 in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl, arguably the Tigers' most impressive bowl win ever. Miles' first LSU team finished 11-2 (the only Tiger team to win more was the 13-1 BCS national champion of 2003) and ranked No. 5 in the coaches' poll.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Al Woods**, DL, 6-5, 325 *Small-school phenom could be special.*
2	**Charles Scott**, RB, 5-11, 223 *Top in-state runner fits Tiger mold.*
3	**Charles Deas**, DL, 6-4, 315 *After a year off, wants to show he can still play.*
4	**Jai Eugene**, DB, 6-0, 175 *Touted in-state cover cornerback.*
5	**Keiland Williams**, RB, 5-11, 223 *Year of prep school helped touted back.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.9	Arizona	
S.16	@AUBURN	20-17 (OT)
S.23	Tulane	
S.30	Mississippi State	37-7
O.7	@FLORIDA	21-17
O.14	Kentucky	
O.21	Fresno State	
N.4	@TENNESSEE	27-30 (OT)
N.11	Alabama	16-13 (OT)
N.18	Mississippi	40-7
N.24	@ARKANSAS*	19-17

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Tigers will be trying to avenge last year's super-meltdown, a 30-27 OT loss to the Vols.

** at Little Rock, Ark.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

OFFENSE		
QB	4	JaMarcus Russell (6-6, 252, Jr.)
FB	18	Jacob Hester (6-0, 232, So.)
TB	22	Alley Broussard (6-0, 237, Jr.)
LT	70	Ciron Black (6-4, 315, Fr.)
LG	73	Will Arnold (6-4, 322, So.)
C	63	Brett Helms (6-2, 290, So.)
RG	75	Brian Johnson (6-4, 297, Jr.)
RT	77	Peter Dyakowski (6-5, 294, Sr.)
TE	89	Keith Zinger (6-4, 259, Sr.)
WR	3	Craig Davis (6-2, 199, Sr.)
WR	80	Dwayne Bowe (6-3, 217, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Tyson Jackson (6-5, 281, So.)
DT	72	Glenn Dorsey (6-2, 284, Jr.)
DT	91	Charles Alexander (6-3, 285, So.)
DE	94	Chase Pittman (6-4, 265, Sr.)
LB	48	Darry Beckwith (6-1, 229, So.)
LB	35	Luke Sanders (6-4, 229, So.)
LB	7	Ali Highsmith (6-1, 226, So.)
CB	37	Jonathan Zenon (6-0, 179, Jr.)
CB	21	Chevis Jackson (6-0, 189, So.)
FS	30	LaRon Landry (6-2, 204, Sr.)
SS	31	Jessie Daniels (5-11, 203, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 174, Sr.)
P	41	Chris Jackson (5-11, 174, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Given the hurricane-ravaged circumstances, and a fair shake, little more could have been asked of Miles and his Tigers in 2005.

But now it's 2006, and barring another hurricane (or two) barreling Louisiana's way, Tiger fans' insatiable thirst for more gridiron glory will bring more heat this fall.

Miles, as cool as the autumn afternoons he used to play football on at Michigan, says bring it on.

"We feel like this can be the kind of team that we're used to having at LSU," Miles says.

A brief statement, but one layered with meaning, considering that LSU has won 51 games the last five years—the most wins in school history in that window of time. And considering that the Tigers lost seven players to the NFL Draft and had five more sign as free agents. And that injuries from last season leave big question marks about several key players.

If this LSU team is going to be the "kind of team" the Tigers are used to having, this season would have to be, to use one of Miles' favorite words, a "strong" one.

There is no position on the LSU team stronger—or more full of question marks—than quarterback.

JaMarcus Russell led LSU to a 10-1 regular season mark before separating his left (non-throwing) shoulder against Georgia. His recuperation from that, and right wrist surgery resulting from a midseason injury, forced Russell to miss the Peach Bowl and spring practice.

Into his void stepped Matt Flynn. He was brilliant against Miami, earning MVP honors after completing 13 of 22 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns. Flynn's mobility—something Russell doesn't possess—allowed him to pick up 39 more yards on five carries.

Then there's Ryan Perrilloux, a redshirt freshman who was once committed to Texas, but who like Flynn tried to state his case in the spring before Russell returns in the fall.

Apparently, Miles was more than convinced. While he gave a vote of confidence to Russell, he also sounded like he was trying to send a message to the quarterback who threw for 2,443 yards and 15 TDs last year.

Work hard to come back ... or else.

"Any time there's a competitive position on the football team," Miles says, "the likelihood is that it will be played better than it's been played. That's what Matt proved in the bowl game and how he

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played in the spring. Ryan Perrilloux has ability. just see the competition benefiting us.

"If JaMarcus is the best quarterback and comes back healthy and ready to go, we'll get the best play from our quarterback.

"I think you can look forward to a little more competitive situation. You look at the guy who won 10 games a year ago first. But we feel very confident we have other qualified quarterbacks at the position."

The running back position is also loaded with talent—and questions. Alley Broussard returns after missing the fall and spring with a knee injury, but his recovery was slow. Justin Vincent, the team's top-returning rusher with 488 yards and five TDs on 121 carries, is also coming off a knee injury. There is a big influx of new talent led by Keiland Williams from Lafayette, but it's unproven.

The same can be said for LSU's offensive line. The Tigers return only two starters from last year, left guard Will Arnold and right tackle Brian Johnson, who moves to right guard. Ciron Black will likely take over from four-year starter Andrew Whitworth at left tackle, while Brett Helms is expected to start at center and Peter Dyakowski takes over at right tackle.

The receiver corps is deep and dependable, led by Dwayne Bowe (41 catches, 710 yards, 9 TDs), Craig Davis (35, 559, 2) and Early Doucet (26, 389, 5). Tight end Keith Zinger is a capable blocker and pass catcher.

Only two starters—defensive end Chase Pittman (6-4, 265) and strongside linebacker Ali Highsmith (6-1, 226)—return to the front seven of an LSU defense that improved as the season went on and finished third in the nation in points and yards allowed. Most of the new starters saw plenty of action last year, though, beginning with end Tyson Jackson and tackles Glenn Dorsey and Charles Alexander. Luke Sanders takes over at middle linebacker, while Darry Beckwith lines up on the weakside.

The secondary is experienced and strong up the middle, led by strong safety Jessie Daniels and free safety LaRon Landry, who passed on the NFL Draft to be a four-year starter and possible top 10 pick in 2007. Chevis Jackson is back at one corner, while Jonathan Zenon takes over at the other spot.

Chris Jackson, a third baseman who missed the spring baseball season with a football elbow injury from making a tackle at Vanderbilt, should be healthy enough to punt and kick.

The schedule is like an exotic new dance step, rhythmic and difficult to master. Two home games, road trip. Two home games, road trip, all the way through the season. The home schedule is dotted with interesting dates against Arizona, Fresno State and Alabama. The road schedule is nothing but landmines, starting with a Sept. 16 game at Auburn that could go a long way to determining the SEC West champion (the winner of this game has played in the SEC Championship Game five of the last six years). LSU then goes to Florida on Oct. 7, Tennessee on Nov. 4 and Arkansas the day after Thanksgiving.

It would seem like a Mission: Impossible for any team, though it is worth remembering that LSU is 11-2 on the road (excluding bowl games) the last three seasons.

That 11-2 mark just so happens to be what LSU's record was last year. If the Tigers could win that many games again, it would be an impressive feat, and one that could lay the foundation for another national championship chase in 2007.

NEXT BIG THING

RICKY JEAN-FRANCOIS, freshman defensive end

With three starters gone from one of the best defensive lines last year, LSU needs all the help it can get up front. Enter redshirt freshman Ricky Jean-Francois—who's already contributing to the Tigers' athletic department, although in a different sport.

Jean-Francois was a two-sport star out of Carol City High in Miami. During his senior prep season, the 6-3, 266-pound defensive end had 93 tackles, 15 sacks, three interceptions and four forced fumbles. The previous year, Jean-Francois recorded 10 sacks and eight forced fumbles.

He also set the state record for sacks in a single game (6.5), helping him to be rated as the No. 1 defensive line prospect from Florida. Jean-Francois turned down numerous scholarships (including Auburn, Florida, N.C. State and Tennessee) to sign with the Tigers.

Football wasn't the only thing Jean-Francois excelled at in high school, as he also was a two-time 5A state champion in both shot put and discus. Jean-Francois was able to continue throwing shot put and discus for LSU, and was an All-SEC second-team selection last season.

Jean-Francois redshirted last year, but is now involved in a battle for a starting position on the line with several other underclassmen. The Tigers will be quite inexperienced on the line, with defensive tackles Claude Wroten and Kyle Williams and defensive end Melvin Oliver all lost to graduation. Those three were the top three sack leaders for the Tigers last year.

Although he is versatile enough to play either end or tackle, Jean-Francois is currently getting reps at left end. With his size and strength and given his previous accolades, there could soon be a new sack leader for the Tigers.

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	LSU	OPP
SCORING	383	185
Points Per Game	29.5	14.2
FIRST DOWNS	255	194
Rushing	118	63
Passing	119	101
Penalty	18	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	1951	1190
Yards gained rushing	2353	1649
Yards lost rushing	402	459
Rushing Attempts	509	402
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.0
Average Per Game	150.1	91.5
TDs Rushing	21	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2912	2279
Att-Comp-Int	216-10	431-204-10
Average Per Pass	8.1	5.3
Average Per Catch	13.5	11.2
Average Per Game	224.0	175.3
TDs Passing	22	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4863	3469
Total Plays	869	833
Average Per Play	5.6	4.2
Average Per Game	374.1	266.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	24-409	43-760
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	29-410	14-80
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-124	10-95
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.0	17.7
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.1	5.7
INT RETURN AVERAGE	12.4	9.5
FUMBLES-LOST	20-13	21-4
PENALTIES-YARDS	108-907	86-610
Average Per Game	69.8	46.9
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2575	90-3605
Average Per Punt	40.9	40.1
Net punt average	39.0	35.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:32	28:28
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/169	55/195
3rd-Down Pct	39%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/11	7/17
4th-Down Pct	73%	41%
SACKS BY-YARDS	38-284	26-263
MISC YARDS	22	22
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	48	21
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	14-24	13-25
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-46	18-18
ATTENDANCE	549480	289424
Games/Avg Per Game	6/91580	5/57885
Neutral Site Games		2/69668

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
LSU	73	99	81	118	12	383
Opponent	30	40	45	61	9	185

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

JaMarcus Russell

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	136.56	311-188-9	60.5	2443	15	203.6

Matt Flynn

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	180.18	48-27-1	56.2	457	7	50.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Joseph Addai	13	187	911	4.9	9	70.1
Justin Vincent	13	121	488	4.0	5	37.5
Shyrone Carey	10	59	234	4.0	2	23.4

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dwayne Bowe	12	41	710	17.3	9	59.2
Craig Davis	11	35	559	16.0	2	50.8
Skyler Green	13	32	268	8.4	0	20.6

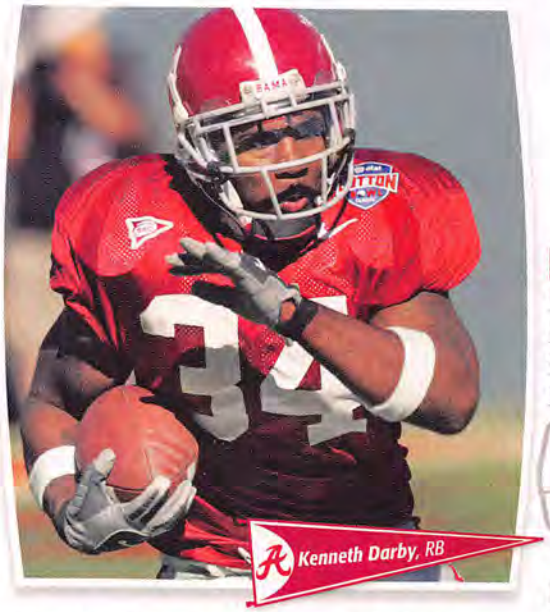
DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Cameron Vaughn	13	46	37	83
Ali Highsmith	13	36	39	75
Melvin Oliver	13	38	31	69

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Melvin Oliver	13	9.0	53
Claude Wroten	13	6.0	27
Kyle Williams	13	4.5	34

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
LaRon Landry	3	42	14.0	0
Jonathan Zenon	2	47	23.5	0
Craig Steltz	1	22	22.0	0

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE


Kenneth Darby, RB

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

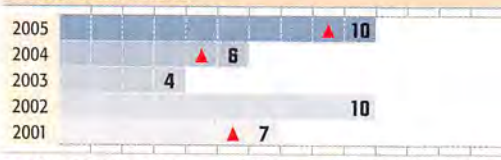
OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	SEC:
10-2	6-2

(beat Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, 13-10)

Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (83,818)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Shula, 4th year (20-17)
Career record: 20-17
Assistant coaches: Joe Kines (def. coord./LBs/asst. head coach), Dave Rader (off. coord./QBs), Chris Ball (secondary), Bob Connelly (off. line), Charlie Harbison (WRs), David Turner (def. ends), Dave Ungerer (special teams/TEs), Sparky Woods (RBs), Buddy Wyatt (def. line)

Croyle's departure leaves a big hole, so Tide may turn even more to run

A little consistency. That's all they're looking for at Alabama—at least for now.

A string of solid, winning seasons that measure for measure can put the messy Mike DuBose/Dennis Franchione/Mike Price years farther and farther behind the Crimson Tide program.

Mike Shula finally got the healing process rolling in 2005 with a 10-2 record. Not a championship season, mind you. Not one to rank among the all-time best at Alabama. But a season to feel good about, a turning point for a program beset by NCAA probation upheaval that only this season is able to offer its full complement of 85 scholarships.

Despite the uncertain status of senior linebacker Juwan Simpson, who was arrested for possession of a stolen gun in mid-May, the main question for the Tide in the spring was how well John Parker Wilson would fit as a replacement for graduated QB and NFL draft pick Brodie Croyle.

Wilson, who completed just seven of 11 passes last season, is comparable to Croyle in arm strength. And he has escape velocity out of the pocket that Croyle didn't possess.

"He just needs to go play," Shula says of Wilson. "He's going to make some mistakes because of his experience, but he will make plays."

Who will be Wilson's backup is an equally compelling story. The odds are on senior Marc Guillon, but his chronically bad back and a knee injury suffered near the end of spring practice have complicated things. True freshman Greg McElroy could earn the understudy role if he has a good August.

Easing Wilson's burden will be a bulging backfield full of tailbacks, led by senior workhorse Kenneth Darby (1,242 rushing yards last year). Jimmy Johns and Glen Coffee are vying to be his backup, while Roy Upchurch returns from an injury that sidelined him in 2005. Prep-school newcomer Mike Ford could be the best of the bunch.

D.J. Hall and Keith Brown return to man both wide receiver spots. But Tyrone Prothro will likely not return, still recovering from the severe broken leg injury he suffered last season against Florida.

Still, despite the loss of Croyle and the likely absence of Prothro, the sometimes-stagnant Alabama offense may actually improve in 2005. That will be next to impossible for an Alabama defense that led the SEC in almost every major category last year.

Only four starters return: defensive end Wallace Gilberry, tackle Jeremy Clark, weakside linebacker Simpson and cornerback Ramzee Robinson. But the rest of the replacements are veterans, such as junior Simeon Castille. He sat out the Cotton Bowl and spring practice for disciplinary reasons, but should return in August to claim the corner spot opposite Robinson. Junior Matt Collins and senior Terrence Jones are set to step in to replace middle linebacker Freddie Roach and strongside 'backer DeMeco Ryans, respectively, though freshman Prince Hall is expected to give Collins a fight.

Placekicker Jamie Christensen (16-of-25 field goals, 25-of-26 PATs) returns, while Bama will be breaking in a new punter, freshman P.J. Fitzgerald, to replace Jeremy Schatz, who averaged only 38.3 yards per kick last year.

Alabama should have no trouble getting off to a 3-0 start at home in newly expanded Bryant-Denny Stadium against Hawaii, Vanderbilt and Louisiana-Monroe. Then the fun begins with back-to-back road trips to Arkansas and Florida. Visits to Tennessee and LSU follow later before the Tide hosts Auburn for the Iron Bowl.

"We have our hands full this year," Shula says. "We probably have our toughest road schedule at Arkansas, Florida, LSU and Tennessee. Those are probably the four loudest stadiums in the country."

How Alabama handles those road games will likely determine its success this season.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Hawaii	
S.9	Vanderbilt	
S.16	Louisiana-Monroe	
S. 23	**@ ARKANSAS**	**24-13**
S.30	@FLORIDA	31-3
O.7	Duke	
O.14	Mississippi	13-10
O.21	@TENNESSEE	6-3
O.28	Florida International	
N.4	Mississippi State	17-0
N.11	@LSU	13-16 (OT)
N.18	Auburn	18-28

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Winning this game could mean the difference between contending in the SEC West or being an also-ran.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/25

OFFENSE		
QB	14	John Parker Wilson (6-2, 207, So.)
TB	34	Kenneth Darby (5-11, 205, Sr.)
FB	33	Le'Ron McClain (6-1, 256, Sr.)
LT	72	Chris Capps (6-6, 286, Jr.)
LG	76	Marlon Davis (6-4, 315, So.)
C	59	Antoine Caldwell (6-3, 296, So.)
RG	61	B.J. Stabler (6-4, 295, So.)
RT	58	Kyle Tatum (6-8, 290, Sr.)
TE	83	Travis McCall (6-2, 250, So.)
WR	81	Keith Brown (6-2, 192, Jr.)
WR	22	D.J. Hall (6-3, 190, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	92	Wallace Gilberry (6-3, 254, Jr.)
LT	99	Jeremy Clark (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RT	96	Dominic Lee (6-2, 303, Sr.)
RE	93	Bobby Greenwood (6-6, 245, So.)
SLB	55	Terrence Jones (6-1, 220, Sr.)
MLB	56	Matt Collins (6-1, 241, Jr.)
WLB	42	Juwan Simpson (6-3, 222, Sr.)
LCB	1	Ramzee Robinson (5-10, 190, Sr.)
RCB	2	Simeon Castille (6-1, 188, Jr.)
FS	3	Jeffrey Dukes (6-1, 193, Sr.)
SS	20	Marcus Carter (6-1, 190, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	86	Jamie Christensen (6-0, 178, Jr.)
P	11	P.J. Fitzgerald (6-0, 190, Fr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Andre Smith**, OL, 6-5, 315 *In-state recruit is top incoming blocker in the land.*
2	**David Ross**, OL, 6-4, 295 *Gives Crimson Tide two top O-Line anchors.*
3	**Jake Jones**, DB, 6-0, 185 *Two-way athlete follows his father to 'Bama.*
4	**Nikita Stover**, WR, 6-2, 200 *Junior-college product has big potential.*
5	**Terry Grant**, RB, 5-10, 188 *Prolific Mississippi runner could contribute.*

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	✪✪✪
DEFENSE	✪✪✪
SPECIAL TEAMS	✪✪✪
COACHING	✪✪✪

2005 Record:	SEC:
4-7	2-6

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Southern California	17-70
S.9	Utah State	
S.16	@VANDERBILT	24-28
S.23	Alabama	13-24
O.7	@AUBURN	17-34
O.14	Southeast Missouri State	
O.21	Mississippi	28-17
O.28	Louisiana-Monroe*	44-15
N.4	@SOUTH CAROLINA	10-14
N.11	Tennessee	
N.18	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	44-10
N.24	LSU*	17-19

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

No one will expect the Razorbacks to win, but it will be interesting to see how much closer they can come to USC than 70-17.

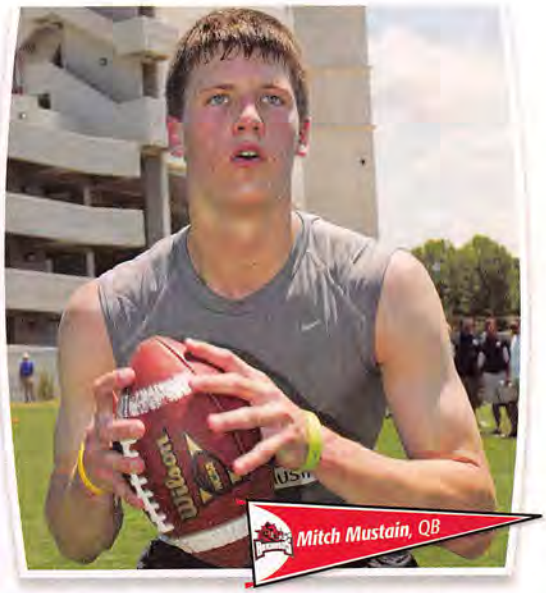
** at Little Rock, Ark.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/13

OFFENSE		
QB	11	Casey Dick (6-2, 211, So.)
TB	5	Darren McFadden (6-2, 210, So.)
FB	22	Peyton Hillis (6-2, 233, Jr.)
LT	66	Tony Ugoh (6-5, 304, Sr.)
LG	74	Stephen Parker (6-4, 310, Sr.)
C	63	Jonathan Luigs (6-4, 305, So.)
RG	61	Robert Felton (6-4, 319, Jr.)
RT	69	Zac Tubbs (6-6, 335, Sr.)
TE	89	Wes Murphy (6-3, 265, Sr.)
SE	85	Marcus Monk (6-6, 227, Jr.)
FL	10	Cedric Washington (6-0, 200, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	92	Jamaal Anderson (6-6, 268, Jr.)
LT	55	Marcus Harrison (6-3, 315, Jr.)
RT	99	Keith Jackson (6-0, 300, Sr.)
RE	97	Antwain Robinson (6-3, 250, So.)
SLB	44	Freddie Fairchild (6-2, 215, So.)
MLB	23	Desmond Sims (6-3, 226, Sr.)
WLB	24	Sam Olajabutu (5-9, 229, Sr.)
LC	2	Chris Houston (5-11, 178, Jr.)
RC	4	Matterral Richardson (6-0, 193, Jr.)
FS	8	Michael Grant (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SS	6	Randy Kelly (6-0, 194, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	50	Jeremy Davis (5-9, 175, So.)
P	14	Jacob Skinner (6-3, 212, Sr.)

Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)


Mitch Mustain, QB

Razorbacks keep prized prospect Mustain home, but will QB controversy be too much of a distraction?

After another winter of football discontent in Arkansas, welcome to the new season of mixed emotions.

There is reason for optimism in Fayetteville with 20 starters returning. On the other hand, there is reason for concern, given that the 2005 Razorbacks returned 18 starters and the team went 4-7.

There is reason for excitement, considering how well Casey Dick played at quarterback toward the end of last season and that freshman phenom Mitch Mustain is in camp this fall. But there is also reason for concern that a quarterback controversy arising from pressure to play Mustain could be a divisive and distracting force for a team trying to regain its winning form.

The quarterback situation took center-stage in the offseason, brought into sharp focus by the fact that Arkansas kept Mustain, a national recruit from nearby Springdale, close to home.

Dick and Robert Johnson both have experience as starters, Dick having ended the season as the No. 1. But neither has game experience running the offense installed by Arkansas' new offensive coordinator, Gus Malzahn, who just happens to have been Mustain's coach at Springdale High. Johnson's problems are compounded by the fact that he is coming back from offseason hernia surgery, his second.

Nutt made it clear in the spring that the quarterback derby will be thrown wide-open this fall.

"Casey probably didn't have the spring we thought he would have," Nutt says. "Robert had his surgery after having a real good spring.

"When Mitch comes in, we'll give him a look, see what happens. The best one will play."

Whoever that is will have the benefit of being surrounded by an offense that lost just one starter—Jonathan Luigs replaces Kyle Roper at center—and includes a talented cast of skill players. That group is led by tailback Darren McFadden, an exciting, physical runner who was a sensation last year rushing for 1,113 yards and 11 touchdowns as a freshman. Also back are starting wide receivers Marcus Monk (35 catches, 476 yards, 7 TDs) and Cedric Washington (27 catches, 365 yards).

Nine starters return on a defense that could stand to make some improvements after ranking 10th in SEC scoring defense and ninth in total yards allowed. There were some moves in the spring designed to maximize players talents, such as shifting Desmond Sims from defensive end to middle linebacker. He'll play along small but hard-hitting weakside linebacker Sam Olajubutu, who led the team and ranked third in the SEC last year with 110 tackles (including 67 solos and 14.5 for losses). Michael Grant also moved from cornerback to free safety after the player Arkansas was counting on in that position, junior-college transfer John West, struggled in the spring to grasp the defense.

Jeremy Davis takes over from Chris Balseiro at placekicker, while Jacob Skinner (41.8-yard average) is again the punter.

"We had a very good spring," Nutt says. "Overall we felt like we improved."

For Nutt's sake, that had better be true. The Razorbacks were expected to struggle after returning just six starters in 2004, but last year's team, while competitive at times, was a disappointment.

While the schedule does open with USC (which routed Arkansas 70-17 last year), games with Utah State, Vanderbilt, Southeast Missouri State, Ole Miss, Louisiana-Monroe and Mississippi State should give Arkansas a chance to build a solid winning foundation. Two other tough opponents—Alabama and LSU—have the tough task of traveling to Arkansas to play.

If the Razorbacks post a third straight losing season, enough heat will be on Nutt that Arkansas may be forced to make a coaching change.

Head coach: Houston Nutt, 9th year (57-40)
Career record: 93-62
Assistant coaches: Bobby Allen (CBs), Reggie Herring (def. coord./LBs), Tracy Rocker (def. line), James Shibest (TEs/special teams), Mike Markuson (off. line/running game coord.), Danny Nutt (RBs), Louis Campbell (secondary), Alex Wood (QBs/passing game coord.), Gus Malzahn (off. coord./WRs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Mitch Mustain**, QB, 6-3, 205 *Will Parade Player of the Year be the Hogs' savior?*
2	**Damian Williams**, WR, 6-1, 188 *Mustain's prep teammate could be special.*
3	**Freddie Barnett**, DL, 6-2, 300 *Junior-college product has big upside.*
4	**Van Stumon**, LB, 6-4, 238 *Prep defensive stalwart has potential.*
5	**Andrew Norman**, WR, 6-2, 180 *Like Williams, likes passes from Mustain.*

OXFORD

OLE MISS
REBELS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	4
2003	▲10
2002	▲7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL
✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Ed Orgeron, 2nd year (3-8)
Career record: 3-8
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium
Capacity: 60,580
Official athletic Web site: www.olemisssports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S.2	Memphis	10-6
S.9	@MISSOURI	
S.16	@KENTUCKY	13-7
S.23	Wake Forest	
S.30	Georgia	
O.7	Vanderbilt	23-31
O.14	@ALABAMA	10-13
O.21	@ARKANSAS	17-28
O.28	Auburn	3-27
N.4	Northwestern State	
N.18	@LSU	7-40
N.25	Mississippi State	14-35

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Rebels have hopes of reaching a bowl, they'll probably have to win at least once on the road. This is their best chance.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/25

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Brent Schaeffer (6-2, 195, Jr.)
TB	6	Jason Cook (6-0, 230, So.)
FB	44	B. Green-Ellis (5-11, 211, Jr.)
LT	74	Michael Oher (6-5, 330, So.)
LG	73	Andrew Wicker (6-5, 290, Sr.)
C	60	Thomas Eckers (6-2, 290, Jr.)
RG	79	Maurice Miller (6-3, 320, So.)
RT	50	Darryl Harris (6-3, 285, Jr.)
TE	15	Robert Lane (6-3, 225, Jr.)
SE	2	Burnell Wallace (6-0, 175, So.)
FL	21	Marshay Green (5-10, 170, Fr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	98	Peria Jerry (6-2, 290, So.)
DT	97	Hayward Howard (6-4, 300, So.)
NT	90	Brandon Jenkins (6-5, 280, Jr.)
DE	95	Chris Bowers (6-2, 231, So.)
WLB	10	Quentin Taylor (6-0, 235, So.)
MLB	49	Patrick Willis (6-2, 230, Sr.)
SLB	26	Garry Pack (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LC	28	Nate Banks (5-11, 180, Jr.)
RC	3	Trumaine McBride (5-11, 180, Sr.)
FS	20	Charles Clark (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	13	Jamarca Sanford (5-10, 200, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	17	Will Moseley (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	36	Rob Park (6-0, 185, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **1-7 SEC**

Patrick Willis, LB

The start of the Ed Orgeron era at Ole Miss is sort of like the first version of a movie that receives bad reviews from its test audience.

Back to the editing room, re-cut it, and come back with a new, bolder vision.

A generally underwhelming 3-8 first season, capped by a disheartening 35-14 loss at rival Mississippi State, did little to dampen Orgeron's enthusiasm—or his salesmanship.

He went out in the offseason and brought in one of Ole Miss' most heralded recruiting classes in years—one that includes former Tennessee quarterback Brent Schaeffer—and two coaches formerly from the University of Miami.

Longtime Hurricanes assistant Dan Werner takes over as offensive coordinator, while Art Kehoe is the new offensive line/assistant head coach. Orgeron says Werner will have complete control of the offense, giving him more time to work with the defense.

"We're awfully excited about having Dan Werner and Art Kehoe on our staff," Orgeron says. "You can see a difference already. And the defense is starting to shine."

In truth, there is nowhere to go but up for an Ole Miss offense that scored just 15 touchdowns last year, fewer than any team in Division I-A football except Buffalo and Temple.

Obviously the hope is that Schaeffer will be the answer, but the line in front of him will have to improve. To help facilitate that, Darryl Harris moved from center to right tackle. Former quarterback Robert Lane is now a full-time tight end, where he's expected to display probably the best pair of hands on the team.

Perhaps the SEC's best linebacker and hardest hitter, Patrick Willis (128 tackles), turned his back on the NFL Draft and returned to anchor the Rebel defense. Peria Jerry moved from tackle to end, his 6-2, 290-pound bulk giving Ole Miss needed weight there.

STARKVIL

MISSISSIPPI STATE
BULLDOGS

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	3
2003	2
2002	3
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL
✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Sylvester Croom, 3rd year (6-16)
Career record: 6-16
Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium
Capacity: 55,082
Official athletic Web site: www.mstateathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A.31	South Carolina	
S.9	Auburn	0-28
S.16	Tulane	21-14
S.23	@UAB	
S.30	@LSU	7-37
O.7	West Virginia	
O.14	Jacksonville State	
O.21	@GEORGIA	10-23
O.28	Kentucky	7-13
N.4	@ALABAMA	0-17
N.18	Arkansas	10-44
N.25	@MISSISSIPPI	35-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Bulldogs will get a chance to play kingmaker when the highly ranked Mountaineers come calling to Starkville.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/18

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Michael Henig (6-1, 179, So.)
HB	27	Brandon Thornton (5-10, 188, So.)
FB	41	Bryson Davis (6-2, 263, Sr.)
LT	79	Calvin Wilson (6-5, 356, So.)
LG	53	Anthony Strauder (6-3, 306, So.)
C	76	Royce Blackledge (6-3, 293, Jr.)
RG	55	Brian Anderson (6-6, 307, Sr.)
RT	78	Michael Gates (6-4, 302, So.)
TE	88	Eric Butler (6-3, 250, Jr.)
WR	4	Tony Burks (6-4, 213, Jr.)
WR	14	Omarr Conner (6-1, 218, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	54	Titus Brown (6-3, 240, Jr.)
DT	98	Deljuan Robinson (6-4, 296, Sr.)
NT	94	Andrew Powell (6-0, 298, Sr.)
RE	58	Michael Heard (6-2, 268, Sr.)
SLB	5	Gabe O'Neal (6-0, 223, Jr.)
MLB	2	Quinton Culberson (6-0, 239, Sr.)
WLB	22	Jamar Chaney (6-2, 229, So.)
LC	3	Derek Pegues (5-10, 188, So.)
RC	23	David Heard (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS	34	Jeramie Johnson (5-11, 216, Sr.)
SS	1	Keith Fitzhugh (5-10, 213, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	46	Keith Andrews (6-1, 199, Sr.)
P	43	Blake McAdams (5-11, 187, So.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **1-7 SEC**

Michael Henig, QB

Change can be slow to come by in the SEC, especially if you're a down-and-out program like Mississippi State trying to climb back into a more respectable neighborhood.

The Bulldogs have won just 14 games over the last five years and six under third-year Coach Sylvester Croom. Bowl trips, even winning seasons, are beginning to become distant replays in the minds of victory-starved State fans.

There are reasons to hope that the Bulldogs can improve this season—if even just by small, incremental steps. State returns 19 starters, including nine on a defense that played respectably well last season (sixth in the SEC in passing defense, seventh in rushing defense). Middle linebacker Quinton Culberson, the team's top returning tackler with 78 stops last year, is back along with free safety Jeramie Johnson.

Melvin Smith, defensive backs coach under Jackie Sherrill, returns to direct Johnson and the rest of the secondary, while Shane Beamer (son of Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer) moves over to coach running backs after Freddie Kitchens left for the Dallas Cowboys.

Eight players who started last year return for an offense that ranked 113th in Division I-A in scoring and total yardage and 109th in passing.

The quarterback who did most of the passing last year, Omarr Conner, has been shifted to wideout, where he will be catching passes from new quarterback Michael Henig, a sophomore. But most of the passes will probably be going to Tony Burks, a 6-4 junior-college transfer who nailed down a starting spot in the spring. Replacing Jerious Norwood and his 1,136 yards rushing will fall to sophomore Brandon Thornton, who picked up 225 yards and a touchdown in 2005.

Placekickers Keith Andrews and Adam Carlson came out of the spring in a fight for the top of the depth chart. Blake McAdams returns to punt after kicking 69 times last year.

(L TO R): STEVE BEYER; DON KELLY; HFI MFTS COURTESY SPORTSUBS.COM; JOSEPH AT HTTP://SPORTSUBS.COM

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**John Broussard**, San Jose State	*Most elusive RB*	**Yonus Davis**, San Jose State	*Top NFL prospect*	**Samson Satele**, OL, Hawaii
Best hands	**Davone Bess**, WR, Hawaii	*Best instincts*	**Korey Hall**, LB, Boise State	*Top impact freshman*	**Chastin West**, WR, Fresno State
Best passing QB	**Colt Brennan**, Hawaii	*Best athlete*	**John Broussard**, WR, San Jose State	*Hardest hitter*	**Korey Hall**, LB, Boise State
Best running QB	**Jared Zabransky**, Boise State	*Best under pressure*	**Jeff Rowe**, QB, Nevada	*Biggest underachiever*	**John Broussard**, WR, San Jose State

WAC
WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **How will Boise State fare without Dan Hawkins, who is now coach at Colorado?** With their longtime offensive coordinator, Chris Petersen, now at the helm, there's no reason to think the Broncos can't win their fifth WAC title in a row.
2. **Can Dennis Erickson get it done at Idaho?** It won't happen overnight. Although Erickson has enjoyed success at the college level, the Vandals won just two games last season and play a schedule that includes Michigan State, Washington State and Oregon State.
3. **Can a WAC team finish the season ranked in the Top 25 after being shut out last season?** Yes, assuming the conference gets quality wins against BCS league opponents. They'll have plenty of chances with games against teams such as Oregon, Alabama, Nebraska and Michigan State.
4. **Can Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan duplicate his statistics from last season in which he led the nation in total offense (4,455 yards)?** With a pair of 1,000-yard receivers returning and a year under his belt in the run-and-shoot offense, Brennan could surpass those numbers.
5. **Can Nevada dethrone four-time WAC champion Boise State?** After sharing the title with Boise State last season, Nevada returns enough key players to do so.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **IDAHO**: The Vandals landed two three-star running backs and a pair of talented prep quarterbacks.
2. **BOISE STATE**: Junior-college LB Garrett Tuggle and QB Mike Coughlin are two highly rated prospects.
3. **SAN JOSE STATE**: Signed more three-star recruits (five) than any team in the WAC, led by RB Dominque Hunsucker, who had Pac-10 offers.
4. **NEVADA**: Only WAC team to land a four-star recruit in offensive lineman John Romero Jr. Five of Nevada's 15 signings are offensive linemen.
5. **FRESNO STATE**: Bulldogs loaded up on high school receivers (five), none nationally ranked.
6. **LOUISIANA TECH**: Led WAC with 26 recruits, including a conference-high six juco transfers.
7. **HAWAII**: Added depth with five receivers for Coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense.
8. **UTAH STATE**: With just one two-star recruit, ranked next to last in Division I-A by *scout.com*.
9. **NEW MEXICO STATE**: With 15 recruits, ranked last among 119 Division I-A schools by *scout.com*.

Broncos seek to keep momentum going without Hawkins on the sidelines anymore

By **MARK GOMEZ**
San Jose Mercury News

Boise State's run of dominance in the WAC ended last season, as the Broncos shared the conference championship with Nevada. Boise State's string of consecutive conference victories also ended at 31 games with a 27-7 loss to Fresno State.

Throw in a 27-21 loss to Boston College in the MPC Computers Bowl, played in the Broncos' home stadium, and last season was a disappointment by Boise State standards. The loss to Boston College ended Boise State's streak of 31 consecutive home victories.

The Broncos are now in a transition period. With former Coach Dan Hawkins leaving for Colorado (despite signing a five-year contract extension in December 2004), Boise State has handed the reins to Chris Petersen, who was the Broncos' offensive coordinator.

Even with a new coaching staff, the Broncos remain the class of the conference. With 20 returning starters, including quarterback Jared Zabransky and linebacker Korey Hall, the Broncos are favored to win their fifth consecutive title.

But Fresno State and Nevada aren't far behind. The Wolf Pack, who shared in the WAC title last season, their first conference championship since 1997, have one of the conference's top returning quarterbacks in senior Jeff Rowe. Nevada excelled last season under a new offensive scheme, and with one year of experience under his belt, Rowe could make the Pack even better.

Fresno State should also be in the mix. Led by Coach Pat Hill, who is entering his 10th season at the helm and is the longest-tenured coach in the WAC, the Bulldogs return with most of their starting lineup intact. The one considerable exception is at quarterback, where Fresno State is still looking to replace Paul Pinegar, who ranked 18th in the nation in passing efficiency (147.6).

After welcoming three new coaches last season, the WAC has two more first-year mentors roaming the sideline. Joining Petersen is Dennis Erickson, who is starting his second stint at Idaho after spending one year away from football. Erickson is making his sixth stop at the college level after coaching stints in the NFL with San Francisco and Seattle.

The WAC now boasts three of the 15 winningest active coaches in the NCAA in Nevada's Chris Ault (177 wins, No. 5), San Jose State's Dick Tomey (145 wins, No. 11) and Erickson (144 wins, No. 13).

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-WAC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Jeff Rowe, Sr., Nevada	DL	Andrew Browning, Sr., Boise State
RB	Dwayne Wright, Jr., Fresno State	DL	Ikaika Alama-Francis, Sr., Hawaii
RB	Justine Buries, Jr., New Mexico State	DL	Tyler Clutts, Jr., Fresno State
OL	Matt Cantu, Sr., San Jose State	LB	J.J. Milan, Sr., Nevada
OL	Barrett Reznick, Sr., Nevada	LB	Dwayne Andrews, Sr., Fresno State
OL	Tala Esera, Sr., Hawaii	LB	Matt Castelo, Jr., San Jose State
OL	Samson Satele, Sr., Hawaii	LB	Korey Hall, Sr., Boise State
OL	Kyle Young, Sr., Fresno State	DB	Marty Tadman, Jr., Boise State
WR	Paul Williams, Sr., Fresno State	DB	Joe Garcia, Sr., Nevada
WR	Caleb Spencer, Sr., Nevada	DB	Marcus McCauley, Sr., Fresno State
TE	Anthony Pudewell, Sr., Nevada	DB	Courtney Bryan, Jr., New Mexico State
PK	Mike Barrow, Sr., Idaho	P	Mike Barrow, Sr., Idaho

Predicted order of finish:

1. Boise State — p. 116 STOCK: UP
2. Nevada Wolf Pack — p. 117 STOCK: UP
3. Fresno State — p. 118 STOCK: STEADY
4. Hawaii — p. 119 STOCK: UP
5. Louisiana Tech — p. 119 STOCK: STEADY
6. Utah State — p. 120 STOCK: DOWN
7. San Jose State — p. 120 STOCK: DOWN
8. Idaho Vandals — p. 121 STOCK: DOWN
9. New Mexico State Aggies — p. 121 STOCK: DOWN

BOISE STATE BRONCOS

Jared Zabransky, QB

Bounce-back season from Zabransky is critical to Broncos' BCS hopes

After spending five seasons as Boise State's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Chris Petersen now faces the task of leading the Broncos to a BCS game.

Petersen replaced Coach Dan Hawkins, who left Boise State in December to accept a five-year contract worth $850,000 annually with Colorado. During Hawkins' five-year run, Boise State posted the fourth-most wins in the nation (53), trailing only Texas (56), Oklahoma (55) and USC (54).

There doesn't figure to be much drop-off with Petersen, who in 2002 and 2004 was a finalist for the Broyles Award, which honors the nation's top assistant coach. Under Petersen, Boise State has averaged 41.5 points per game since 2000, tops in the nation.

A handful of factors should help Petersen make a smooth transition and allow Boise State to contend for its fifth consecutive WAC title. The Broncos return a conference-high 20 starters, including quarterback Jared Zabransky and linebacker Korey Hall, play their two most challenging games at home (Oregon State and Fresno State) and don't open the season against a BCS power such as Georgia. Boise State lost to the Bulldogs 48-13 in last season's opener. Petersen will make his debut with a home game against Sacramento State, a Division I-AA program.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Garrett Tuggle**, LB, 6-1, 225 *Big junior-college season helped prospect.*
2	**Nate Potter**, OL, 6-6, 265 *Local prep product is a four-sport athlete.*
3	**Keith McGowen**, DB, 5-10, 165 *Californian may see playing time this year.*
4	**Derrell Acrey**, LB, 6-2, 235 *West Coast prospect has potential.*
5	**Michael Coughlin**, QB, 6-5, 215 *Another talented California import.*

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	WAC:
9-4	7-1

(lost to Boston College in the MPC Computers Bowl, 27-21)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Sacramento State	
S. 7	Oregon State	27-30
S. 16	@WYOMING	
S. 23	Hawaii	44-41
S. 30	@UTAH	
O. 7	Louisiana Tech	30-13
O. 15	@NEW MEXICO STATE	56-6
O. 21	@IDAHO	70-35
N. 1	**Fresno State**	**7-27**
N. 11	@SAN JOSE STATE	38-21
N. 18	Utah State	45-21
N. 25	@NEVADA	49-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Bulldogs ended Boise State's string of 31 consecutive conference wins last season with a 27-7 victory in Fresno.

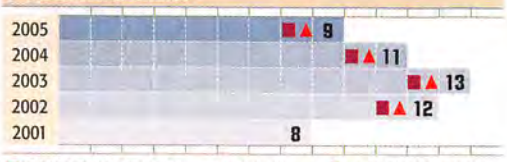
PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/8

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Jared Zabransky (6-2, 203, Sr.)
RB	41	Ian Johnson (5-11, 193, So.)
FB	34	Brad Lau (5-11, 255, Sr.)
LT	79	Ryan Clady (6-6, 312, So.)
LG	66	Tad Miller (6-4, 303, Jr.)
C	54	Jeff Cavender (6-2, 287, Jr.)
RG	67	Andrew Woodruff (6-3, 324, So.)
RT	71	Ryan Keating (6-4, 317, Sr.)
TE	91	Derek Schouman (6-2, 211, Sr.)
WR	1	Jerard Rabb (6-2, 198, Sr.)
WR	11	Drisan James (5-11, 184, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	97	Nick Schlekeway (6-4, 261, Jr.)
DT	57	Andrew Browning (6-0, 278, Sr.)
DT	58	Tim Volk (6-2, 260, Sr.)
DE	96	Mike G. Williams (6-3, 244, Sr.)
SLB	31	Colt Brooks (6-1, 208, Sr.)
MLB	25	Korey Hall (6-1, 228, Sr.)
WLB	43	David Shields (6-2, 217, So.)
LCB	16	Orlando Scandrick (5-11, 174, So.)
RCB	37	Austin Smith (5-9, 170, Jr.)
S	2	Gerald Alexander (6-0, 197, Sr.)
S	20	Marty Tadman (5-11, 176, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	47	A. Montgomery (6-1, 215, Sr.)
P	42	Kyle Stringer (5-8, 190, Sr.)

Stadium: Bronco Stadium (30,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Chris Petersen, 1st year
Assistant coaches: Jeff Choate (RBs/special teams), Bryan Harsin (off. coord./QBs), Scott Huff (TEs), Sean Kugler (asst. head coach/off. line), Pete Kwiatkowski (def. line), Brent Pease (WRs), Viliami Tuivai (LBs), Justin Wilcox (def. coord.), Marcel Yates (secondary)

Petersen also faces some challenges. Boise State's coaching staff is one of the youngest in the nation and includes a pair of 29-year-old coordinators, Bryan Harsin (offense) and Justin Wilcox (defense). Harsin spent the previous five seasons as a Boise State assistant and is just one of two offensive coordinators in the country under 30. Wilcox spent the last three years as the linebackers coach at Cal and is one of three defensive coordinators in the nation under 30.

Still, there is plenty of reason for optimism. The Broncos return nine starters on both offense and defense from last year's team that won its fourth consecutive WAC title (sharing it with Nevada).

Their season may hinge on Zabransky, whose sporadic play in 2005 resulted in a poor touchdown-to-interception ratio of 18/16. He threw four interceptions and no touchdowns in the season-opening loss to Georgia, a game that immediately threw a wrench into the Broncos' BCS hopes. Against Idaho, Zabransky threw two interceptions and no touchdowns on four-for-15 passing.

But the third-year signal-caller is a proven winner who has rushed for 24 touchdowns in the last two seasons. He guided the Broncos to a 36.1-point average last season, ninth best in the nation.

And Zabransky will have plenty of experienced targets to throw to. Senior receiver Jerard Rabb caught a team-high 38 passes for 572 yards and five touchdowns last season. Senior receiver Drisan James could be poised for a breakout year after finishing second on the team in receptions (34) and yards (518). Tight end Derek Schouman had 17 catches for 177 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore Ian Johnson was part of Boise State's tailback by committee and the team's second-leading rusher with 663 yards and four touchdowns. Junior Jon Helmandollar, who sat out 2005 for personal reasons, is second on the depth chart and led the Broncos with 14 rushing touchdowns as a freshman.

Defensively, with Hall roaming at middle linebacker and a front line led by Andrew Browning (6-0, 278 pounds), the Broncos could improve upon last year's numbers (369.7 yards, 24.4 points per game allowed).

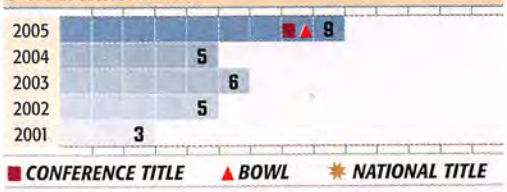
The Broncos remain almost unbeatable at home, where they have won 31 consecutive regular-season games on the blue turf at Bronco Stadium. In last year's MPC Computers Bowl played at Bronco Stadium, Boise State lost to Boston College 27-21.

STEVE GRAYSON / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL: 800-784-2990.

NEVADA WOLF PACK

Stadium: Mackay Stadium (31,900)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	WAC:
9-4	7-1

(beat Central Florida in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, 49-48 in OT)

Pack will Rowe the dice on 'pistol' shooting down WAC foes again

Quarterback Jeff Rowe enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2005, and so did the Wolf Pack, winning a share of their first conference championship since 1997.

Rowe, a senior, is arguably the conference's top returning quarterback and could post even better numbers in his second season running the Wolf Pack's new offense. Coach Chris Ault, who is entering his 22nd year at Nevada (in two stints), installed a new offensive and defensive system last spring. He scrapped his wide-open, one-back attack in favor of "the pistol," an innovative hybrid of the shotgun formation in which the quarterback lines up three yards behind center to allow for a running back to line up behind the quarterback.

The results: Nevada ranked 14th in the nation in total offense (449.3 yards per game) and 15th in scoring offense (34.2 points per game). The Wolf Pack reached those numbers after a slow start, but finished the season by winning eight of their final nine games, including a 49-48 overtime victory against Central Florida in the Hawaii Bowl.

It won't take long to determine if Nevada's success is short-lived: the Wolf Pack's first four opponents competed in bowl games last season. Nevada opens with a conference game at Fresno State, followed by a trip to Arizona State and home games against Colorado State and Northwestern.

Rowe, a 6-foot-5, 225-pound senior, emerged last season as one of the top quarterbacks in the WAC and was consistent throughout for the Wolf Pack. He passed for at least 200 yards in nine of 12 games, including a 22-for-32, 253-yard effort in Nevada's win over Central Florida. With Rowe at the helm, Nevada led the nation in time of possession, averaging 33:12 per game.

Following spring practices, Ault said of Rowe: "He has had a great spring. He's gotten better and he has a great feel for the offense now. He'll have a good year."

Among the seven returning offensive starters are three of Nevada's top four receivers. Leading the way is senior Caleb Spencer, a first-team All-WAC selection who led the team in catches (67), yards (889) and touchdown receptions (7). Senior receiver Kyle Sammons and tight end Anthony Pudewell both had 27 catches and two touchdowns last season.

Although the Wolf Pack lost B.J. Mitchell, the WAC's leading rusher last season, Robert Hubbard appears ready for a starting role. As a junior, Hubbard rushed for 741 yards and 11 touchdowns. Sophomore Luke Lippinicott enjoyed a solid spring camp and is expected to make an impact.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 1	@FRESNO STATE	38-35
S. 9	@ARIZONA STATE	
S. 16	Colorado State	21-42
S. 22	Northwestern	
S. 30	@UNLV	22-14
O. 7	@HAWAII	38-28
O. 21	San Jose State	30-23
O. 28	New Mexico State	48-24
N. 4	@IDAHO	62-14
N. 11	Utah State	30-24
N. 18	@LOUISIANA TECH	37-27
N. 25	Boise State	14-49

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Wolf Pack open with a crucial conference game against a Bulldog team that could contend for the WAC title.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/15

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Jeff Rowe (6-5, 225, r-Sr.)
RB	19	Robert Hubbard (5-11, 195, r-Sr.)
WG	60	Greg Hall (6-3, 285, r-So.)
WT	61	Dominic Green (6-2, 290, r-So.)
C	76	Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 290, r-Sr.)
ST	75	Charles Manu (6-3, 300, Jr.)
SG	70	Barrett Reznick (6-1, 285, r-Sr.)
TE	83	Anthony Pudewell (6-3, 240, r-Sr.)
WR	87	Caleb Spencer (5-11, 180, Sr.)
WR	5	Kyle Sammons (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	89	Mike McCoy (6-0, 190, r-So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Charles Wilson (6-4, 270, r-Sr.)
NT	57	Matt Hines (6-1, 285, r-Jr.)
DE	91	J.J. Milan (6-5, 265, r-Sr.)
BAN	44	Jeremy Engstrom (6-1, 247, r-Jr.)
SLB	56	Ezra Butler (6-2, 255, r-Jr.)
MLB	33	Jason DeMars (6-2, 255, Sr.)
WLB	30	Joshua Mauga (6-2, 245, So.)
CB	23	Joe Garcia (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB	37	De'Angelo Wilson (5-10, 185, r-So.)
SS	24	Mike Samples (6-0, 195, r-Fr.)
FS	25	Sergio Villasenor (6-1, 206, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	99	Brett Jaekle (6-2, 225, r-So.)
P	40	Thomas Barcia (5-7, 160, So.)

Defensively, the Wolf Pack return seven starters, including three linebackers, two linemen and half the starting secondary. Senior cornerback Joe Garcia was the team's third-leading tackler (72) and a first-team All-WAC selection. Sophomore linebacker Ezra Butler recorded 75 tackles and led the team with 15.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks.

But the biggest key for Nevada is the return of senior defensive end J.J. Milan, who redshirted last season after getting injured in fall camp. At 6-5 and 265 pounds, Milan's presence should shore up a defense that allowed 410.6 yards and 31.9 points per game. As a junior, Milan led the team in sacks (4.5) and was second in tackles for loss (10.5).

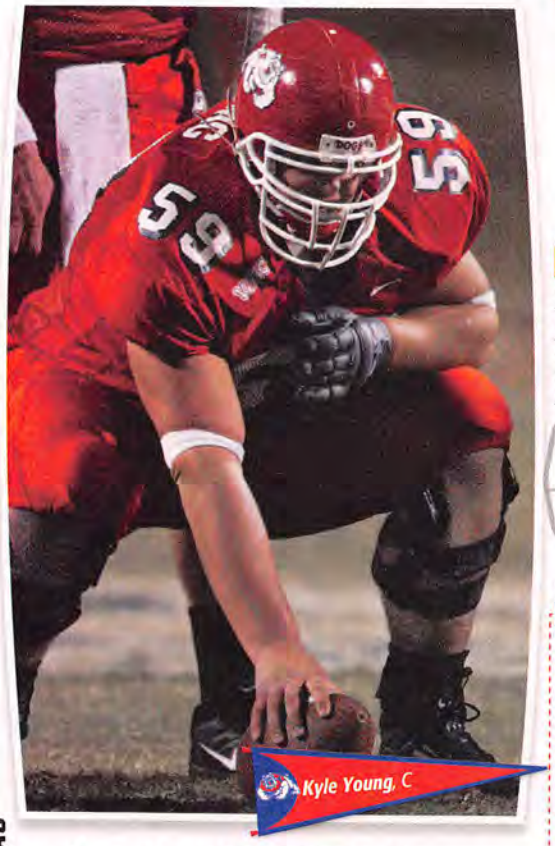
Nevada seems to have all the parts needed to challenge Boise State and Fresno State for the WAC title. The second half of Nevada's schedule, which includes a season-ending game against visiting Boise State, will determine the Wolf Pack's fate.

Head coach: Chris Ault, 22nd year (173-73-1)
Career record: 173-73-1
Assistant coaches: Scott Baumgartner (WRs), Tim DeRuyter (co-def. coord./safeties), Chris Klenakis (off. coord./off. line), Marty Long (def. line), Jim Mastro (RBs), Kim McCloud (CBs), Cameron Norcross (TEs/off. line), Barry Sacks (co-def. coord./OLBs), Ken Wilson (asst. head coach/ILBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **John Romero**, DL, 6-4, 295
Arizona product was a touted prep.
2. **Adam Liranzo**, DB, 6-4, 210
Californian could also play wide receiver.
3. **DeVon Walker**, DB, 6-0, 175
Junior-college prospect is solid player who'll help immediately.
4. **Colin Kaepernick**, QB, 6-5, 190
Could be signal-caller of future.
5. **Sam Stewart**, DE, 6-3, 275
Another junior-college recruit.

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS



PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:	WAC:
8-5	6-2

(lost to Tulsa in the Liberty Bowl, 31-24)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 1	Nevada	35-38
S. 9	Oregon	34-37
S. 16	@WASHINGTON	
S. 30	Colorado State	
O. 7	@UTAH STATE	53-21
O. 14	Hawaii	27-13
O. 21	@LSU	
N. 1	@BOISE STATE	27-7
N. 11	New Mexico State	37-7
N. 18	Idaho	40-10
N. 24	@LOUISIANA TECH	28-40
D. 2	@SAN JOSE STATE	45-7

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Will the Bulldogs have found a QB in time for the season opener against the defending WAC champion Wolf Pack?

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/16

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Tom Brandstater (6-5, 220, So.)
TB	32	Dwayne Wright (6-1, 220, Jr.)
FB	26	Roshon Vercher (5-11, 245, Sr.)
LT	72	Bobby Lepori (6-5, 285, So.)
LG	77	Ryan Wendell, 6-2, 275, Jr.)
C	59	Kyle Young (6-5, 330, Sr.)
RG	62	Cole Popovich (6-2, 285, So.)
RT	79	Chris Denman (6-6, 305, Sr.)
TE	85	Bear Pascoe (6-5, 260, So.)
WR	1	Paul Williams (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	84	Joe Fernandez (5-10, 175, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Marlon Brisco (6-3, 260, Sr.)
DT	98	Louis Leonard (6-4, 330, Sr.)
NT	97	Jason Shirley (6-5, 330, Jr.)
DE	11	Tyler Clutts (6-2, 245, Jr.)
OLB	31	Marcus Riley (6-0, 220, Jr.)
MLB	51	Dwayne Andrews (6-0, 240, Sr.)
OLB	10	Alan Goodwin (6-2, 220, Sr.)
CB	17	Marcus McCauley (6-1, 205, Jr.)
CB	30	Elgin Simmons (5-9, 180, Sr.)
SS	15	Josh Sherley (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	4	Vincent Mays (5-11, 206, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Clint Stitser (6-1, 200, So.)
P	37	Mike Lingua (6-0, 190, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Pat Hill, 10th year (72-43)
Career record: 72-43
Assistant coaches: John Baxter (associate head coach/special teams/WRs), Dan Brown (def. coord.), Derek Frazier (off. line), Steve Hagen (off. coord./QBs), Kerry Locklin, (def. line), Tom Mason (LBs), Tim Skipper (RBs), Tim Simons (TEs), Randy Stewart (secondary)

WAC

Fearless Fresno will take on all comers again as Hill continues to raise Bulldogs' profile

Give Fresno State Coach Pat Hill credit. When he says his team will play anyone, anywhere, anytime, he means it.

After backing up his words in 2005 with a midseason game at Southern Cal, the Bulldogs will break up WAC play this year against LSU. Their trip to Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge is sandwiched between conference games against up-and-coming Hawaii and Boise State, contests that could determine whether Fresno makes a run at the WAC championship.

Last season, the Bulldogs were poised to capture their first WAC title since 1999 after a win over Boise State on Nov. 10 improved their record to 8-1. They followed that with a thrilling 50-42 loss to USC in what was easily one of the most entertaining games of the season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Lonyae Miller**, RB, 5-11, 210 *In-state talent with potential.*
2	**Anthony Harding**, RB, 6-0, 215 *Seeks early playing time.*
3	**Taylor Smith**, DE, 6-3, 230 *He could also play at linebacker.*
4	**Damion Owens**, DB, 5-11, 185 *A versatile skill-position player.*
5	**Nico Herron**, LB, 6-3, 240 *Solid prospect with a good future.*

But the Bulldogs fizzled from there, enduring what was arguably the biggest season-ending letdown in 2005. The loss to Southern Cal was the start of a four-game losing streak, including a rare home loss to Louisiana Tech and a 31-24 defeat at the hands of Tulsa in the Liberty Bowl.

How Fresno State rebounds will determine whether they keep pace with Nevada and Boise State in the WAC race.

Although the Bulldogs lost veteran quarterback Paul Pinegar and had not found his replacement at the conclusion of spring practice, they still return 19 starters, including four-fifths of their offensive line and all three linebackers.

Replacing Pinegar, however, is Fresno State's top goal entering fall camp and filling his shoes won't be easy. Pinegar was outstanding as a senior, throwing for 3,335 yards and 30 touchdowns with 15 interceptions for a passer rating of 147.6 (18th nationally).

Sophomores Tom Brandstater and Sean Norton and freshman Ryan Colburn are vying for the quarterback spot. Of the three, only the 6-5, 220-pound Brandstater has college experience, and it's limited: he has completed six of 13 passes for 49 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Whoever wins the starting quarterback job should be well protected and have plenty of experienced targets. The Bulldogs return their top two receivers, Paul Williams and Joe Fernandez, who combined to make 89 catches for 1,290 yards and 15 touchdowns last year.

Center Kyle Young, a 6-foot-5, 330-pound senior who has started 39 consecutive games, anchors the offensive line.

Linebacker Dwayne Andrews was a second-team All-WAC selection (71 tackles in 2005) and was one of 42 defensive players named to the Lott Trophy Watch List, an award handed out to the nation's top defensive player.

Despite losing two senior running backs, the ground game shouldn't miss a beat with Dwayne Wright, who could be poised to lead the conference in rushing. Wright hasn't played since suffering a season-ending knee injury in the second game of the 2004 season. After transferring to Fresno State in 2003, he took over the starting job midway through the season and finished with 1,038 yards and three touchdowns.

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HONOLULU

HAWAII
RAINBOW WARRIORS

2005 Record: 5-7 overall, **4-4 WAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

Quarterback Colt Brennan arrived in Hawaii last summer looking for a fresh start following legal problems at Colorado that led to his dismissal from the Buffaloes' football team in 2004.

Brennan finished the season as the nation's leader in passing yards (4,301) and touchdowns (35) and cemented his status as Timmy Chang's successor.

With one season under his belt, Brennan appears poised to continue the tradition of Hawaii quarterbacks who put up eye-catching statistics while operating Coach June Jones' run-and-shoot offense.

Brennan's troubles stemmed from an off-field incident in early 2004 when he was arrested after entering the dorm room of a female student while intoxicated. He was found guilty of first-degree trespassing and second-degree burglary and sentenced to seven days in jail and four years' probation.

Upon leaving Colorado, Brennan spent the 2004 season in the California juco ranks at Saddleback CC. After walking on at Hawaii, he shared time with freshman Tyler Graunke in the first two games last season before assuming the starting job.

Not only did Brennan lead the nation in total offense, but he was one of the most accurate passers, completing 68 percent of his throws (350-of-515).

Brennan shouldn't have much of a problem duplicating those numbers, considering the Warriors return all four starting receivers, including Davone Bess and Ryan Grice-Mullen, who last year became the first pair of Hawaii receivers to reach 1,000 yards in receptions in the same season.

As a freshman, Bess led the team in catches (89) and touchdowns (14) and was second in receiving yards (1,124). Grice-Mullen, also a sophomore, made 85 catches for a team-high 1,228 yards with 12 touchdowns. Seniors Ross Dickerson (51 catches, 725 yards) and Chad Mock (42, 502) return to round out the starting receiving corps.

The Warriors also return three-fifths of their starting offensive line, led by senior Samson Satele (6-3, 311), a first-team All-WAC selection, and Tala Esera (6-4, 295).

The defense, under second-year coordinator Jerry Glanville, returns six starters and most of the line. The glaring weakness is in the secondary.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	▲8
2003	▲9
2002	▲10
2001	9

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: June Jones, 8th year (53-37)
Career record: 53-37
Stadium: Aloha Stadium
Capacity: 50,000
Official athletic Web site: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ALABAMA	
S. 16	UNLV	
S. 23	@BOISE STATE	41-44
S. 30	Eastern Illinois	
O. 7	Nevada	28-38
O. 14	@FRESNO STATE	13-27
O. 21	@NEW MEXICO	49-28
O. 28	Idaho	24-0
N. 4	@UTAH STATE	50-23
N. 11	Louisiana Tech	14-46
N. 18	San Jose State	45-38
N. 25	Purdue	
D. 2	Oregon State	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Warriors are notorious for struggling on the road, which is where they open WAC play against the defending champ.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 61/16

OFFENSE		
QB	15	Colt Brennan (6-3, 190, Jr.)
RB	4	Nate Ilaoa (5-9, 248, Sr.)
LT	70	Tala Esera (6-4, 295, Sr.)
LG	65	Hercules Satele (6-2, 302, Jr.)
C	64	Samson Satele (6-3, 311, Sr.)
RG	55	John Estes (6-1, 275, Fr.)
RT	72	Dane Uperesa (6-5, 331, Sr.)
WR	88	Chad Mock (5-11, 171, Sr.)
WR	7	Davone Bess (5-10, 187, So.)
WR	1	R. Grice-Mullen (5-10, 174, So.)
WR	82	Ross Dickerson (5-10, 185, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	98	Melila Purcell (6-5, 266, Sr.)
NT	67	Michael Lafaele (6-0, 306, Jr.)
DE	91	I. Alama-Francis (6-5, 250, Sr.)
LB	58	John Fonoti (6-3, 233, So.)
LB	44	Adam Leonard (6-0, 237, So.)
LB	41	S. Elimimian (6-0, 224, So.)
LB	33	C.J. Allen-Jones (6-2, 219, So.)
CB	34	A.J. Martinez (5-10, 177, Jr.)
CB	19	C.J. Hawthorne (5-11, 165, Jr.)
FS	42	Leonard Peters (6-1, 199, Sr.)
SS	43	Brad Kalilimoku (5-10, 204, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	26	Nolan Miranda (5-8, 163, Sr.)
P	25	Kurt Milne (6-0, 196, Jr.)

RUSTON

LOUISIANA TECH
BULLDOGS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, **6-2 WAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

After enjoying one of their best seasons during Coach Jack Bicknell's seven-year tenure, Louisiana Tech returns a largely inexperienced team of several new defensive starters and an unproven quarterback.

The Bulldogs won't have much time to come together as they navigate through a difficult 13-game schedule. They play four of their first five games on the road, including their WAC opener at Boise State. Early trips to Nebraska, Texas A&M and Clemson could leave Tech reeling.

With seven returning offensive starters, the Bulldogs' biggest challenge is replacing quarterback Matt Kubik. The two-year starter was highly efficient as a senior, throwing for 2,202 yards and 18 touchdowns with just seven interceptions.

Zac Champion, Tech's only returning quarterback with game experience, entered spring practice No. 1 on the depth chart. The 6-foot-1, 215-pound junior is expected to be pushed by junior Joe Danna and redshirt freshman Michael Mosley.

After spending nearly a decade as the nation's top passing team—the Bulldogs threw for more than 32,000 yards between 1996 and 2003—Louisiana Tech has become more balanced with its ground game the last couple of years. In 2004, the running game reached a high point with the emergence of Ryan Moats (now with the Philadelphia Eagles) and continued last season with Mark Dillard, Freddie Franklin and Patrick Jackson, who combined for almost 1,500 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Franklin and Jackson are expected to return this fall, though Jackson suffered a knee injury early in spring practices and missed the remaining workouts. Franklin was the team's second-leading rusher last season (461 yards, 4 TDs) despite missing three games with an injury.

Although the Bulldogs return three starting offensive linemen, they must replace three-time All-WAC selection Aaron Lips at guard and three-year starter Marcus Stewart at center.

The Bulldogs also return leading receivers Eric Newman and Johnathan Holland. Newman, a senior, led the team with 30 catches for 566 yards and eight touchdowns.

After ranking fifth in the nation in turnover margin and third in total defense in the WAC, Tech needs to replace nine defensive starters.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	6
2003	5
2002	4
2001	■▲7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Jack Bicknell, 8th year (40-42)
Career record: 40-42
Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium
Capacity: 30,600
Official athletic Web site: www.latechsports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@NEBRASKA	
S. 16	Nicholls State	
S. 23	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 30	@CLEMSON	
O. 7	@BOISE STATE	13-30
O. 14	Idaho	41-38
O. 21	Utah State	27-17
O. 28	@SAN JOSE STATE	31-14
N. 4	@NORTH TEXAS	40-14
N. 11	@HAWAII	46-14
N. 18	Nevada	27-37
N. 24	Fresno State	40-28
D. 2	@NEW MEXICO	34-14

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After a brutal opening schedule, the Bulldogs get a reprieve at home with a WAC game against the lower-tier Vandals.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/24

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Zac Champion (6-1, 215, Jr.)
RB	28	Freddie Franklin (6-0, 178, Jr.)
TE	89	Anthony James (6-6, 265, Sr.)
LT	73	Tyler Miller (6-7, 309, Jr.)
LG	66	David Accardo (6-5, 316, So.)
C	51	Jacob Peeler (6-3, 261, Sr.)
RG	78	Marcus Lindsey (6-7, 386, Sr.)
RT	63	Ryan Considine (6-5, 297, Jr.)
WR	7	J. Holland (6-0, 189, Sr.)
WR	82	Eric Newman (6-0, 187, Sr.)
WR	81	Josh Wheeler (6-4, 200, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	Sammie Collins (6-3, 249, Sr.)
NT	92	Josh Muse (6-3, 310, Jr.)
DT	94	Wes Day (6-4, 249, So.)
LB	37	Quin Harris (6-3, 221, So.)
LB	58	Brannon Jackson (6-2, 263, Jr.)
LB	44	Anthony Crosby (6-0, 227, Jr.)
LB	27	Marquis Spurgon (6-0, 187, Sr.)
CB	20	Sandy Ray Collins (5-10, 187, Sr.)
CB	26	Anthony Moss (5-10, 183, Sr.)
ROV	45	Deon Young (5-11, 191, Fr.)
FS	4	Dez Abrams (6-0, 189, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	31	Danny Horwedel (6-2, 200, Jr.)
P	15	Chris Keagle (5-11, 225, So.)

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	2
2003	3
2002	6
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dick Tomey, 2nd year (3-8)
Career record: 161-118-7
Stadium: Spartan Stadium
Capacity: 31,218
Official athletic Web site: www.sjsuspartans.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@WASHINGTON	
S. 9	Stanford	
S. 23	Cal Poly	
S. 30	San Diego State	21-52
O. 14	Utah State	17-24
O. 21	@NEVADA	23-30
O. 28	Louisiana Tech	14-31
N. 4	@NEW MEXICO ST.	27-10
N. 11	Boise State	21-38
N. 18	@HAWAII	38-45
N. 25	@IDAHO	26-18
D. 2	Fresno State	7-45

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Spartans begin a stretch of four consecutive home games against their Bay area rival.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/18

OFFENSE		
QB	17	Adam Tafralis (6-1, 223, Jr.)
TB	34	Yonus Davis (5-7, 180, Jr.)
FB	42	James T. Callier (6-0, 221, Jr.)
LT	76	Matt Cantu (6-3, 290, Sr.)
LG	62	Marcel Burrough (6-6, 322, Sr.)
C	68	Justin Paysinger (6-1, 290, So.)
RG	63	John Booker (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	66	Chris Danser (6-6, 295, So.)
TE	49	Jason Cain (6-5, 235, So.)
WR	3	James Jones (6-1, 196, Sr.)
WR	81	John Broussard (6-1, 165, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Justin Cole (6-3, 210, r-Fr.)
DT	92	F. McCutcheon (6-2, 295, Sr.)
DT	90	Josh Pulu (6-2, 283, r-Jr.)
DE	53	Jarron Gilbert (6-5, 240, So.)
LB	51	Chris Reese (5-9, 195, So.)
LB	35	Matt Castelo (5-10, 200, Jr.)
LB	31	D. Chattman (6-0, 190, So.)
CB	32	Ellis Jones (5-11, 190, So.)
CB	29	Christopher Owens (5-10, 170, So.)
SS	8	Christopher Vedder (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FS	22	Jason Evans (6-1, 185, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Jared Strubeck (5-9, 160, So.)
P	18	Waylon Prather (6-3, 229, Jr.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **2-6 WAC**

Year One of the Dick Tomey era ended with mixed reviews. The Spartans endured an eight-game losing streak before finishing the season with back-to-back wins for the first time since 2002.

San Jose State is hoping to carry that momentum into this season, when they will play a 12-game schedule that includes a school-record seven home games. It's just the second time in 57 seasons that San Jose State has more home games than road games.

San Jose State's most pressing need is improved play at quarterback. Incumbent Adam Tafralis endured an up-and-down sophomore season, completing just 49.7 percent of his passes for 1,810 yards and 11 touchdowns with 10 interceptions.

To challenge Tafralis, the Spartans signed junior-college standout Sean Flynn, a 6-3, 215-pound transfer from Los Angeles Harbor College who arrived in time for spring practice. In 2005, Flynn ranked third among California juco quarterbacks in total offense, averaging 292.1 yards per game. Flynn and sophomore Chad Bozzo, who played in three games last season before suffering a shoulder injury, will compete with Tafralis for the starting job.

The rest of the Spartans' offense returns largely intact, led by second-team All-WAC running back Yonus Davis. The 5-7, 180-pound junior led SJSU with 674 yards and four touchdowns last year and will be running behind a veteran line that returns four starters.

Wide receiver John Broussard caught just 26 passes as a junior, but was second on the team with five touchdowns, including a 90-yard score. Broussard's speed makes him a home-run threat in the passing game and on kick returns.

In an effort to spark the offense, Tomey has shuffled coaching duties, moving veteran line coach Steve Morton to offensive coordinator, a post held last season by Ken Margerum, who now handles running backs.

Defensively, the Spartans have just two returning starters, both of whom will be playing different positions. Junior Matt Castelo is moving to middle linebacker, the crucial position in Tomey's defensive scheme. Christopher Vedder, who was mainly used at cornerback last season, is moving to safety. The remaining nine will be decided in fall drills.

UTAH STATE AGGIES

PRESEASON RANK:

#7

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	3
2004	3
2003	3
2002	4
2001	4

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Brent Guy, 2nd year (3-8)
Career record: 3-8
Stadium: Romney Stadium
Capacity: 25,025
Official athletic Web site: www.utahstateaggies.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@WYOMING	
S. 9	@ARKANSAS	
S. 16	Utah	7-31
S. 23	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S. 30	Idaho	13-27
O. 7	Fresno State	21-53
O. 14	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-17
O. 21	@LOUISIANA TECH	17-27
N. 4	Hawaii	23-50
N. 11	@NEVADA	24-30
N. 18	@BOISE STATE	21-45
N. 25	New Mexico State	24-21

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After falling to the Vandals 27-13 in Moscow, the Aggies will be eager to open conference play with a home victory.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/17

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Leon Jackson III (6-1, 196, Jr.)
RB	4	Marcus Cross (5-11, 205, Jr.)
FB	17	Ryan Bohm (5-11, 207, So.)
LT	70	Zac Zimmerman (6-5, 246, r-Fr.)
LG	64	Ryan Wilson (6-3, 256, Sr.)
C	62	Brent Deladurantey (6-3, 306, Sr.)
RG	61	Brennan McFadden (6-2, 274, r-Fr.)
RT	77	Derek Hoke (6-9, 300, So.)
TE	86	Rob Myers (6-4, 236, So.)
WR	1	Tony Pennyman (5-9, 164, Sr.)
WR	6	Kevin Robinson (6-0, 185, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	58	Ben Calderwood (6-2, 252, So.)
DT	79	E.J. Reid (6-1, 297, Jr.)
DT	57	Frank Maile (6-1, 261, Jr.)
DE	97	Bevan Howard (6-2, 252, So.)
SLB	45	Devon Hall (6-3, 209, So.)
MLB	53	Jake Hutton (6-0, 220, So.)
WLB	47	Daryl Fields (5-7, 190, So.)
CB	23	Josh Taylor (6-0, 173, So.)
CB	3	Marquise Charles (5-8, 169, So.)
SS	24	Antonio Taylor (6-1, 205, Jr.)
FS	9	Terrance Washington (5-11, 197, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	13	Justin Hamblin (5-11, 141, Sr.)
P	13	Justin Hamblin (5-11, 141, Sr.)

2005 Record: 3-8 overall, **2-6 WAC**

The Aggies' inaugural season in the WAC went better than expected—a sixth-place tie with San Jose State and Idaho—considering they used 20 freshmen, 10 of whom started at least once.

With 14 returning starters, including six sophomores, Utah State should continue to make strides under second-year Coach Brent Guy. But a schedule that includes just five home games will make things difficult.

Although the team improved offensively last season (a key in the high-scoring WAC), there is still plenty of room for growth. The offense was ranked last in the conference in yards per game (317.0) and eighth in scoring (18.9 ppg).

To that end, the Aggies return their starting quarterback, leading running back and top two receivers.

In his first season as a starter, junior QB Leon Jackson III threw for 1,547 yards and eight touchdowns with six interceptions. Jackson, who missed the final two games, appears to be the clear-cut starter. Backup Jerod Walker, who passed for 653 yards last season, was kicked off the team in April following an arrest for marijuana use in his dorm room.

Sophomore Ryan Bohm became the third freshman to lead Utah State in rushing, gaining 340 yards on 92 carries. In 2005, the Aggies' ground game relied more on their two quarterbacks (656 rushing yards combined) than their top four running backs (561). A player other than a running back led the team in rushing in nine of 11 games.

Tony Pennyman and Kevin Robinson could emerge as one of the best receiving tandems in the conference. Pennyman, a senior, made 63 catches for 741 yards and led the WAC in all-purpose yards. Robinson, a junior, had 43 catches for 661 yards and eight touchdowns and was second in the conference in all-purpose yards. Both players can also make big plays returning punts and kickoffs.

The defense is young, led by four returning starting sophomores and two juniors. Linebacker Jake Hutton came out of nowhere in 2005 to become the first freshman in school history to lead the team in tackles (87). Hutton, the nation's third-leading tackler among freshmen, joined the team as a walk-on and was given a full scholarship in February.

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MOSCOW

IDAHO VANDALS

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **2-6 WAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#8

Twenty-one years later and Dennis Erickson is back where he first started as a head coach—Moscow, Idaho.

The 59-year-old Erickson might be facing the most daunting task of his college coaching career. The Vandals have not won more than three games since 2000 and are coming off a 2-9 finish to their first season in the WAC.

But Erickson has won at each of his five college stops, reaching the pinnacle while at Miami with two national championships in 1989 and '91. He owns a career college record of 145-56-1, with stops at Idaho, Wyoming, Washington State, Miami and Oregon State. He also spent six lackluster seasons in the NFL as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers.

His most recent college stint was at Oregon State, where he led the Beavers to three bowl appearances from 1999-2002. During his first stop at Idaho, he twice led the Vandals to the Division I-AA playoffs.

Although Erickson inherits a team that returns 20 starters, including 10 on offense, he is installing a new offense that could take time to learn. The Vandals aren't making changes to their defensive schemes.

Erickson, known as an innovative offensive mind who favors the passing game, likely wants more production from quarterback Steven Wichman, who threw for 2,746 yards with 15 touchdowns and 18 interceptions last year. It might not be easy. The Vandals' top offensive threat in 2005, receiver D.J. Smith, entered the NFL Draft after averaging 100.1 yards receiving per game, second best in the conference.

Following spring practice, during which Idaho's receivers dropped numerous passes, the team was still waiting for a go-to receiver to emerge. Luke Smith-Anderson, a 6-3, 253-pound junior tight end, could fill that role. Smith-Anderson, who missed the 2002, '03 and '05 seasons with two torn ACLs and a ruptured spleen, was granted two extra years of eligibility by the NCAA. In 2004, he caught 16 passes for 207 yards and a team-high four touchdowns.

Running back Jayson Bird is also coming off a season cut short by injury—he broke his collarbone in the second game of 2005. As a redshirt freshman, he rushed for 859 yards and eight touchdowns.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	2
2004	3
2003	3
2002	2
2001	1

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Dennis Erickson, 1st year
Career record: 145-56-1
Stadium: Kibbie Dome
Capacity: 16,000
Official athletic Web site: www.uiathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S. 9	@WASHINGTON ST.	26-38
S. 16	Idaho State	
S. 23	@OREGON STATE	
S. 30	@UTAH STATE	27-13
O. 7	New Mexico State	38-37 (OT)
O. 14	@LOUISIANA TECH	38-41
O. 21	Boise State	35-70
O. 28	@HAWAII	0-24
N. 4	Nevada	14-62
N. 18	@FRESNO STATE	10-40
N. 25	San Jose State	18-26

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Erickson returns to Corvallis, where he spent four seasons as the Beavers' coach.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/8

OFFENSE		
QB	8	Steven Wichman (6-3, 219, Sr.)
RB	44	Jayson Bird (6-0, 221, r-So.)
LT	68	Nate VanderPol (6-6, 306, Sr.)
LG	50	Jake Tadvick (6-5, 314, Sr.)
C	72	Adam Korby (6-2, 292, So.)
RG	65	Kris Anderson (6-3, 299, So.)
RT	71	Billy Bates (6-5, 271, So.)
TE	45	L. Smith-Anderson (6-5, 253, r-Jr.)
WR	19	Wendell Octave (6-1, 187, Sr.)
WR	86	Lee Smith (6-0, 193, So.)
WR	37	DeAngelo Ramsey (6-2, 204, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	98	Josh Shaw (6-2, 254, So.)
DT	94	Ryan Davis (6-0, 261, Sr.)
DT	91	Siua Musika (6-1, 293, Jr.)
DE	58	Ben Alexander (6-1, 224, Jr.)
SLB	31	Josh Bousman (6-2, 228, Jr.)
MLB	11	Jaron Williams (6-1, 217, Sr.)
WLB	40	David Vobora (6-1, 214, Jr.)
CB	6	Stanley Franks (5-11, 167, Jr.)
CB	8	Reggie Jones (5-10, 201, Jr.)
S	49	D.J. Dykes (6-3, 202, Jr.)
S	16	Tone Taupule (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	43	Mike Barrow (5-11, 158, Sr.)
P	14	T.J. Conley (6-3, 216, So.)

LAS CRUCES

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

2005 Record: 0-12 overall, **0-8 WAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#9

Although he has yet to throw a pass, sophomore quarterback Chase Holbrook is being touted as the player who will revitalize New Mexico State.

Holbrook, who spent 2005 on the bench after transferring from Southeastern Louisiana, has been handed the reins to an offense that ranked near the bottom nationally in scoring. Aggies Coach Hal Mumme originally recruited Holbrook while at Southeastern Louisiana, and when Mumme took the job at New Mexico State, the 6-6, 235-pound quarterback followed.

Holbrook is expected to give the Aggies an immediate spark. He has been studying Mumme's multi-formation offense for two years and started seven games as a freshman at Southeastern Louisiana.

Holbrook entered spring practices as the No. 1 quarterback and cemented his hold on the position with impressive performances.

The Aggies' two previous quarterbacks, Royal Gill and Joey Vincent, are no longer in the picture. Vincent has been moved to the secondary and Gill transferred to Southern Utah.

Holbrook is expected to bring more consistency to a passing attack that broke several school passing records last season, including attempts (547) and completions (310). Those numbers were more a reflection of Mumme's multiple-set, pass-oriented offense. Gill and Vincent combined to throw more interceptions (21) than touchdowns (17).

There will be plenty of experience surrounding Holbrook, including four returning receivers (Mumme uses plenty of three- and four-receiver sets). Senior Tim Tolbert, who missed four games last year with a shoulder injury, could be poised for a breakout season after catching 11 passes for 358 yards one touchdown in 2005. The addition of Miami transfer Aikeem Jolla could bolster the receiving corps.

Junior Justine Buries is the conference's top returning running back (779 yards, 5 touchdowns) and could produce better numbers with Holbrook at quarterback. Buries had four 100-yard rushing games last season, but none in the final four games. He is also a receiving threat out of the backfield (23 receptions).

Senior DB Courtney Bryan is one of six starters back on a defense that allowed an average of 441.4 yards and 38.8 points per game.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	0
2004	5
2003	3
2002	7
2001	5

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Hal Mumme, 2nd year (0-12)
Career record: 97-76-1
Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium
Capacity: 30,343
Official athletic Web site: www.nmstatesports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Southeastern Louisiana	
S. 9	New Mexico	21-38
S. 16	Texas Southern	
S. 30	@UTEP	17-34
O. 7	@IDAHO	37-38 (OT)
O. 15	Boise State	6-56
O. 21	Hawaii	28-49
O. 28	@NEVADA	24-48
N. 4	San Jose State	10-27
N. 11	@FRESNO STATE	7-37
N. 25	@UTAH STATE	21-24
D. 2	Louisiana Tech	14-34

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Will the debut of QB Chase Holbrook against his former team be enough to give New Mexico State its first win since 2004?

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 46/14

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Chase Holbrook (6-6, 235, So.)
RB	34	Justine Buries (6-0, 200, Jr.)
LT	75	Kyle Smith (6-2, 265, Sr.)
LG	72	M. Schoonover (6-4, 290, So.)
C	69	Mike Martinez (6-3, 315, So.)
RG	55	James Farrelly (6-4, 285, Jr.)
RT	74	Adam Honaker (6-3, 295, Jr.)
WR	18	A.J. Harris (6-2, 190, So.)
WR	19	Derek Dubois (6-1, 172, Jr.)
WR	84	Tim Tolbert (6-1, 184, Sr.)
WR	2	Aikeem Jolla (6-3, 200, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	45	Maurice Murray (6-3, 280, Jr.)
NG	90	Jeremy Weeks (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DE	91	Jared Naylor (6-2, 278, Sr.)
LLB	11	La'Auli Fonoti (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	9	Shauna Leaupepe (6-1, 235, So.)
RLB	57	Jamar Cotton (6-0, 215, Fr.)
ROV	8	Tim McManigal (6-0, 222, Sr.)
CB	27	Courtney Bryan (5-11, 195, Sr.)
CB	36	Alex Bernard (5-8, 185, Jr.)
SS	41	Eric Carrie (5-9, 200, Jr.)
FS	26	Cole Marton (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	48	Matt Pratt (6-1, 170, So.)
P	5	Jared Kaufman (6-1, 177, Jr.)

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RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**McKay Jacobson**, BYU	*Most elusive RB*	**Lynell Hamilton**, RB, San Diego State	*Top NFL prospect*	**John Beck**, QB, BYU
Best hands	**Jonny Harline**, TE, BYU	*Best instincts*	**Eric Weddle**, DB, Utah	*Top impact freshman*	**McKay Jacobson**, WR, BYU
Best passing QB	**John Beck**, QB, BYU	*Best athlete*	**Eric Weddle**, DB, Utah	*Hardest hitter*	**Cody Kase**, LB, New Mexico
Best running QB	**Shaun Carney**, QB, Air Force	*Best under pressure*	**Jeff Ballard**, QB, TCU	*Biggest underachiever*	**Mike Liti**, RB, Utah

Predicted order of finish:

1. TCU — p. 123 — STOCK: UP
2. BYU — p. 124 — STOCK: UP
3. Utah — p. 125 — STOCK: UP
4. New Mexico — p. 126 — STOCK: STEADY
5. Air Force — p. 126 — STOCK: DOWN
6. Colorado State — p. 127 — STOCK: DOWN
7. UNLV — p. 127 — STOCK: UP
8. San Diego State — p. 128 — STOCK: UP
9. Wyoming — p. 128 — STOCK: DOWN

Frogs look to be masters of Mountain West and reap rewards of new BCS format

By **STEVE CARP** *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

Unlike Utah's run in 2004, there was no Bowl Championship Series game for the Mountain West Conference last year, and that meant no jackpot payout to the league's nine member schools.

That also meant it was business as usual—teams playing in lower-tier bowls and having mixed success. However, there's a possibility (though somewhat remote) that the MWC could play itself back into the BCS picture with the new format in which officials have added a fifth game and expanded consideration to the top 12 schools in the final standings.

Defending champion Texas Christian will likely have to repeat last year's perfect 8-0 conference record and bolster its resume with some big wins in order to play in a BCS bowl. Beating Texas Tech at home Sept. 16 would help, to say nothing of taking care of business against Baylor on the road Sept. 2 and winning at Army Oct. 21.

TCU's debut in the Mountain West last year was very impressive and the Horned Frogs are definitely the team to beat in 2006. Can they go undefeated again? If TCU can win at Utah and New Mexico, perhaps. But even if the Horned Frogs don't run the table, they're still going to be tough to knock off the top perch.

Brigham Young is certainly going to make a run at the top spot, as will Utah. Second-year Coaches Bronco Mendenhall (BYU) and Kyle Whittingham (Utah) have a better understanding of what it takes to run a football team on a day-to-day basis, meaning both should be better at their jobs. It doesn't hurt to have some experienced and talented players to make you look good either, so the Cougars (who return 13 starters, including eight on offense), and the Utes (who have 15 starters back, including eight on defense) figure to be very competitive.

After that, things get a bit dicey in the conference. Wyoming needs a new quarterback. San Diego State has a new head coach. Air Force has defensive concerns. UNLV has numerous newcomers. And New Mexico is putting in a new offensive system.

Last year, the league was hard pressed to get four teams bowl-eligible. It could be more of the same in 2006, but only because several programs are either revamping or reloading and by the time they're in sync, it may be too late for this season.

Right now, TCU is the class of the conference. While that could change a year from now, Horned Frogs Coach Gary Patterson shouldn't mind being the guy with the target on his back. It's a sure sign his team has arrived.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	John Beck, Sr., BYU	DL	Tommy Blake, Jr., TCU
RB	Kyle Bell, Jr., Colorado State	DL	Chase Ortiz, Jr., TCU
RB	Curtis Brown, Sr., BYU	DL	Jesse Nading, Jr., Colorado State
OL	Herbert Taylor, Sr., TCU	DL	Howie Fuimaono, Sr., UNLV
OL	Tavo Tupola, Sr., Utah	LB	Cameron Jensen, Sr., BYU
OL	Robert Turner, Sr., New Mexico	LB	Cody Kase, Jr., New Mexico
OL	Chase Johnson, Sr., Wyoming	LB	Beau Bell, Jr., UNLV
OL	Jake Kuresa, Sr., BYU	DB	Eric Weddle, Sr., Utah
TE	Jonny Harline, Sr., BYU	DB	Bobby Giannini, Jr., Air Force
WR	Brian Hernandez, Sr., Utah	DB	Terrell Maze, Sr., San Diego State
WR	Johnny Walker, Jr., Colorado State	DB	Casey Evans, Sr., Utah
PK	Chris Manfredini, Jr., TCU	P	Jimmie Kaylor, Jr., Colorado State

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Is there a reason to think TCU can go undefeated again in 2006?** It could be hard to run through the Mountain West unbeaten, due to the fact there are several Mountain West teams with so many question marks. With that brings a degree of uncertainty, along with the possibility of the Horned Frogs tripping in league play.
2. **Can Chuck Long turn things around at San Diego State right away?** With his knowledge of the game, the Aztecs' new head coach should get the most out of his talent, of which there is plenty. By being more disciplined and cutting down on the mistakes, the Aztecs can be a lot better quickly.
3. **Has Fisher DeBerry lost his touch at Air Force?** Some Falcons fans believe DeBerry's system no long works over the long haul of the season. But they should be more concerned over the fact Air Force lost to both Army and Navy last year (by identical 27-24 scores). That should linger longer than worrying about the late-season fades.
4. **Is one-time USC recruit Rocky Hinds the savior at quarterback for UNLV?** After spring practice, he was still battling Shane Steichen for the starting spot. In Hinds' defense, he hasn't played in a real game in nearly three years. He may not be the savior, per se, but when it's all said and done, Hinds should give the Rebels an upgrade at the position.
5. **How much impact will Bob Toledo have as New Mexico's offensive coordinator?** The former UCLA head coach knows how to open things up and be exciting. The question is, does he have the talent to make it work on a consistent basis? Quarterback Kole McKamey should have a lot of fun with the new offense and tight end John Mulchrone should also benefit.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **UTAH**: Joseph Faifili, a four-star DT from Hawaii, leads a big incoming class of 25.
2. **TCU**: Ten of the 18 prospects were given a three-star rating by *Rivals.com*.
3. **BYU**: McKay Jacobson, from Southlake, Texas, is a big-time wideout.
4. **UNLV**: Large class of 26 includes one of MWC's two incoming four-star recruits.
5. **SAN DIEGO STATE**: Incoming rushers Davon Brown and Brandon Sullivan were rated among the top 50 running backs in California by *Rivals.com*.
6. **COLORADO STATE**: A trio of three-star offensive linemen lead this 23-player class.
7. **WYOMING**: Three-star Greg Bolling of Colorado is a great athlete in search of a position.
8. **NEW MEXICO**: Twenty-six player class has one three-star recruit, RB Michael Love of Rio Rancho, N.M.
9. **AIR FORCE**: The Falcons don't sign players to letters-of-intent.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN HORNED FROGS

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 25 SELECTION

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (44,008)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Mountain West:
11-1	8-0

(beat Iowa State in the Houston Bowl, 27-24)

Horned Frogs' balance on both sides of the ball should be enough for a second consecutive MWC title

That was some debut by the Horned Frogs, who were picked to finish fifth in the Mountain West last year and wound up winning the league going away with a perfect 8-0 record.

How did TCU get it done? It starts with talent, and the Horned Frogs had plenty on both sides of the ball. Six players were first-team All-Mountain West and another six were second-team selections. And it wasn't just at the skill positions either. Offensive linemen Herbert Taylor and Michael Toudouze were first-team picks, as were defensive linemen Chase Ortiz and Tommy Blake. That tells you Coach Gary Patterson has a solid foundation built in his program—the other part of the equation for TCU's success. Patterson is 43-18 in five seasons in Fort Worth and has taken his team to four bowl games during that time.

So important is the continuity Patterson has established that one of the first things Athletic Director Danny Morrison did after the regular season last year was extend the coach's contract through 2012. That should keep things stable for a while, along with the influx of returning starters this season.

Five starters are back on an offense that averaged 33.2 points a game last season. Senior quarterback Jeff Ballard threw for 1,801 yards and completed 59.9 percent of his passes last year. He also passed for 13 touchdowns and ran for eight more. His willingness to not make mistakes throwing the football as a junior can only speculate that he's gearing for a spectacular senior season. Ballard was intercepted just seven times in 232 attempts in 2005.

He's not going to have his favorite target to throw to, as Cory Rodgers has moved on to the NFL. But Quentily Harmon, Michael DePriest, Derek Moore and Donald Massey will give Ballard no shortage of options. Harmon had 28 catches for 318 yards last year, while DePriest has proven to be a clutch receiver—including a four-yard touchdown catch to beat Utah in overtime and an 84-yard score in the Houston Bowl last season.

Moore was fourth on the team with 19 receptions, two behind Massey's 21 catches. Walter Bryant, who had four receptions in the Houston Bowl, and junior Marcus Brock also figure to challenge for playing time. If that's not enough, Ballard can also get it to senior tight end Chad Andrus or Brent Hecht, an inviting target at 6-4 and 256 pounds.

TCU can run the ball effectively, as the team averaged 192.2 yards on the ground last year. Robert Merrill and Aaron Brown, the team's two top rushers, are back and both are impact players. Merrill averaged just less than five yards a carry as a junior and scored a team-high 10 touchdowns, so he knows how to find the end zone. Brown, who was the 2005 Mountain West's Freshman of the Year, had three 100-yard-plus rushing games last season and also showed an ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

The Horned Frogs will also have Lonta Hobbs back. Hobbs was the starting tailback last year before injuring his groin in Week Two, knocking him out of action for the season. He's healthy now and adds depth to an already stacked position.

TCU had a school-record 50 touchdowns last year and there's a chance that mark could fall this year. However, there are questions on the offensive line, where only Taylor returns at left tackle. TCU had the same starting five linemen all 11 regular season games in 2005, and that had a lot to do with the team's success. But with sophomore Giles Montgomery penciled in to start at left guard, sophomore Blake Schlueter at center, junior Matty Lindner at right guard and Wade Sisk at right tackle, TCU seems to be in good shape up front. If any of the new starters struggle, junior-college transfer Ryan Sefton (6-5, 290) and sophomore Tyler Marrou are ready to step in on the O-line.

While TCU is loaded on offense, the defense is just as good. Over the last seven games of 2005, the Horned Frogs allowed just 13.4 points and 92.1 rushing yards a game.

It all begins at linebacker, where Jason Phillips, who led the team with 71 tackles and became the first freshman defensive player to be named second-team all-conference, returns as a starter. Junior David Hawthorne and Robert Henson (who had 69 tackles as a freshman) will battle for the strongside spot.

Up front are Blake and Ortiz, a pair of defensive ends who combined for 16 sacks last year. Lorenzo Jones and James Vess also were impact players as true freshmen and may get an opportunity to make more plays.

TCU plays a 4-2-5 defense for a reason—it has a lot of talent in the secondary. Safeties Eric Buchanan and Marvin White will try and do for TCU what corners Quincy Butler and Drew Coleman did last year, which is coming up with big plays. Seniors Vernon Russell and Mike Salvage will get the chance to replace the two standout corners.

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@BAYLOR	
S. 9	California-Davis	
S. 16	Texas Tech	
S. 28	Brigham Young	51-50 (OT)
O. 5	@UTAH	23-20 (OT)
O. 21	@ARMY	38-17
O. 28	Wyoming	28-14
N. 4	@UNLV	51-3
N. 11	@NEW MEXICO	49-28
N. 18	San Diego State	23-20
N. 25	@COLORADO STATE	33-6
D. 2	Air Force	48-10

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This could be a Wild West shootout, as both teams are capable of putting up points. It's also a great test for the TCU defense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/21

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Jeff Ballard (6-1, 208, Sr.)
TB	33	Robert Merrill (5-10, 204, Sr.)
FB	30	Lonta Hobbs (5-10, 220, Sr.)
LT	78	Herbert Taylor (6-4, 287, Sr.)
LG	65	Giles Montgomery (6-5, 275, So.)
C	75	Blake Schlueter (6-3, 275, So.)
RG	64	Matty Lindner (6-4, 293, Jr.)
RT	71	Wade Sisk (6-7, 270, Jr.)
TE	81	Chad Andrus (6-4, 246, Sr.)
WR	19	Michael DePriest (6-0, 192, Sr.)
WR	18	Quentily Harmon (6-1, 184, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	93	Chase Ortiz (6-3, 250, Jr.)
DT	55	James Vess (6-3, 260, So.)
NT	99	Lorenzo Jones (6-4, 300, So.)
RE	97	Tommy Blake (6-3, 250, Jr.)
SLB	46	David Hawthorne (6-0, 235, Jr.)
MLB	39	Jason Phillips (6-1, 240, So.)
WS	26	Marvin White (6-2, 200, Sr.)
LCB	7	Mike Salvage (5-10, 190, Sr.)
RCB	9	Vernon Russell (6-0, 195, Sr.)
SS	25	Eric Buchanan (5-11, 196, Sr.)
FS	27	David Roach (6-2, 210, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	44	Chris Manfredini (5-9, 170, Jr.)
P	40	Brian Cortney (6-4, 215, Sr.)

Head coach: Gary Patterson, 6th year (43-18)
Career record: 43-18
Assistant coaches: Mike Schultz (off. coord./RBs), Eddie Williamson (asst. head coach/off. line), Jarrett Anderson (WRs), Dan Sharp (TEs/special teams), Dick Winder (QBs), Dick Bumpas (def. coord./def. line), Chad Glasgow (safeties), Charles McMillian (CBs), Tony Tademy (LBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Clint Renfro**, WR, 6-0, 160 *In-state prep star for nation's No. 1 team.*
2	**Clarence Leatch**, DE, 6-3, 210 *He could also be tried at tight end.*
3	**Ryan Sefton**, OL, 6-5, 290 *Junior-college prospect could play early.*
4	**Jimmy Young**, RB, 6-1, 200 *Louisiana product has all the tools.*
5	**Torrey Stewart**, DB, 5-11, 175 *Another juco set for early action.*

BRIGHAM YOUNG COUGARS

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Mountain West:
6-6	5-3

(lost to California in the Las Vegas Bowl, 35-28)

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✱ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Bronco Mendenhall, 2nd year (6-6)
Career record: 6-6
Assistant coaches: Lance Reynold (asst. head coach/RBs), Robert Anae, (off. coord./inside receivers), Brandon Doman (QBs), Jeff Grimes (off. line), Patrick Higgins (WRs/special teams), Barry Lamb (OLBs), Paul Tidwell (ILBs), Steve Kaufusi, (def. line), Jamie Hill (secondary)

With Beck and Brown back, look for Cougs to keep offense in fast lane under fast-moving Bronco

A winning record in the regular season and a trip to a bowl game was an impressive start for BYU first-year Coach Bronco Mendenhall. The Cougars went 6-5 in the regular season, good enough for a spot in the Las Vegas Bowl, where they lost 35-28 to California.

That's something to build on, which is Mendenhall's intention for Year Two. At BYU, winning has always been expected and there are a lot of components in place for success to happen this season.

John Beck, the first-team all-conference quarterback in 2005, is back for his senior season and with 26 starts at BYU, he's fully capable of handling anything thrown at him. Beck's 3,709 passing yards ranked fifth in the nation and he led the league with 27 touchdown passes. In seven games, he passed for more than 300 yards, so there's no questioning his arm. Even the 13 interceptions he threw came in 513 attempts.

BYU also has an accomplished running back in Curtis Brown, who had a workhorse junior season. Brown had 210 carries in 2005, rushing for 1,123 yards and 14 touchdowns, averaging 93.6 yards a game. But Brown won't have to go it alone this season, as Mendenhall is counting on Fui Vakapuna, Ray Hudson and Wayne Latu to shoulder some of the burden on the ground.

Beck lost his favorite wideout in Todd Watkins, but has Nathan Meikle (36 receptions) back, along with Matt Allen and Michael Reed. Meikle had 12 catches in the Las Vegas Bowl and Zac Collie had a couple of TD grabs against TCU. The Cougars are hoping freshman McKay Jacobson from Southlake, Texas, can come in and contribute right away. Reliable Jonny Harline, who led the team in receptions (63) and receiving yards (853) last season, is considered one of the country's top tight ends and will continue to be a favorite target of Beck.

BYU returns three of its five starting offensive linemen—right tackle Jake Kuresa, left tackle Eddie Keele and 345-pound right guard Dallas Reynolds, who are the anchors to a very strong O-line. The key will be at center, where Jeff Rhea, Erik Freeman and Sete Aulai are all battling to replace all-conference performer Lance Reynolds.

Defensively, things need to get better. BYU allowed an average of 29.2 points in 2005 and more alarming was the fact that in the fourth quarter, the Cougars gave up more points (96) than any other period. It's a trend that must stop if BYU wants to be serious title contenders.

Maybe everyone on the new-look 3-4 defense can follow Cameron Jensen's lead. The senior middle linebacker has led BYU in tackles for two straight years, including 84 last year (44 of them solo). His motor is always running and if Jensen can set the tone for his teammates, it's possible the points allowed will decrease.

Mendenhall believes the linebacker corps is the strength of his team's defense, and Markell Staffieri will get an opportunity to work alongside Jensen. Staffieri saw action in all 12 games last season and figures to only get better.

One key switch for BYU is moving Dustin Gabriel from safety to linebacker. A hard hitter, Gabriel should shore up the outside. The switch shows Mendenhall has enough talent in the secondary, where Corby Hodgkiss had a big 2005, recording 26 tackles and a pair of sacks. David Tafuna played in all 12 games and Quinn Gooch had 30 tackles in nine games. They'll team with corners Justin Robinson and Kayle Buchanan, both of whom gained valuable experience a year ago.

Brigham Young's kicking game appears to be in good shape, with Jared McLaughlin making 14 of 19 field goals last year, including a perfect 11-for-11 inside the 40-yard line. Derek McLaughlin, a transfer from Washington, averaged 40 yards per punt in 2005, with 13 attempts downed inside the 20-yard-line.

The Cougars figure to be able to score this season. The question is, can they stop their opponents from finding the end zone?

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ARIZONA	
S. 9	Tulsa	
S. 16	@BOSTON COLLEGE	3-20
S. 23	Utah State	
S. 28	@TCU	50-51 (OT)
O. 7	San Diego State	10-31
O. 21	UNLV	55-14
O. 28	@AIR FORCE	62-41
N. 4	@COLORADO STATE	24-14
N. 9	Wyoming	35-21
N. 18	New Mexico	27-24
N. 25	@UTAH	34-41 (OT)

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cougars look to avenge last year's 20-3 loss in Provo. More importantly, there's a necessity to prove they can hang with a big-time program like the Eagles.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/23

OFFENSE		
QB	12	John Beck (6-2, 212, Sr.)
HB	6	Curtis Brown (6-0, 205, Sr.)
FB	1	Fui Vakapuna (6-0, 229, So.)
LT	59	Eddie Keele (6-5, 312, Sr.)
LG	74	Travis Bright (6-5, 315, So.)
C	55	Jeff Rhea (6-3, 292, Jr.)
RG	65	Dallas Reynolds (6-4, 345, So.)
RT	73	Jake Kuresa (6-4, 339, Sr.)
TE	13	Jonny Harline (6-4, 240, Sr.)
WR	9	Nathan Meikle (5-9, 175, Sr.)
WR	10	Matt Allen (5-11, 180, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	54	Kyle Luekenga (6-3, 263, So.)
NT	70	Hala Paongo (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DE	91	Judd Anderton (6-5, 269, Jr.)
LB	35	Cameron Jensen (6-2, 241, Sr.)
LB	36	Markell Staffieri (6-3, 233, Jr.)
LB	28	Dustin Gabriel (6-1, 201, Jr.)
LB	43	David Nixon (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	15	Justin Robinson (5-7, 154, Sr.)
CB	34	Kayle Buchanan (6-1, 197, Jr.)
S	14	Corby Hodgkiss (5-11, 196, Jr.)
S	23	David Tafuna (6-1, 198, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	30	Jared McLaughlin (6-4, 198, Sr.)
P	29	Derek McLaughlin (6-1, 203, Sr.)

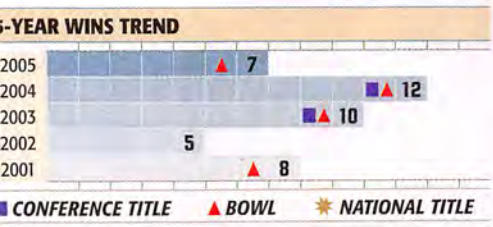
RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**McKay Jacobson**, WR, 6-0, 185 *Texan starred for nation's No. 1 prep team.*
2	**Brandon Ogletree**, LB, 6-0, 215 *Another Texas import with promise.*
3	**Michael Moore**, DB, 6-2, 205 *Californian bids for playing time.*
4	**Romney Fuga**, OL, 6-2, 280 *One of several massive linemen in class.*
5	**Max Hall**, QB, 6-1, 185 *Arizona State transfer gets good look.*

MOUNTAIN WEST

KEN LEVINE / WIRE IMAGE.COM; INFIMT COURTESY SOOPERDEPOT.COM, 0000P AT WWW.SOOPERDEPOT.COM

UTAH UTES



Utes hang 2006 hopes on strong defense, as question marks abound on the offensive side

Life after Alex Smith and Urban Meyer was expectedly rough in Salt Lake City last season. But despite a fall from grace that produced a 1-4 conference record, the Utes still managed to have an overall record of 7-5 and earned a trip to the Emerald Bowl, where they defeated Georgia Tech 38-10.

Year Two for Coach Kyle Whittingham figures to be much easier and should yield better results. Last season's results weren't as disastrous as some thought, even though Utah was picked to repeat as MWC champion and wound up tied for third. With 15 starters returning (including eight on defense), look for the Utes to be a factor from start to finish this year.

Plenty of competition was abound during the spring, beginning at quarterback—where Brian Johnson and Brett Ratliff were battling each other for the starting job. Johnson, a junior who is bouncing back from offseason knee surgery, was a second-team all-conference pick after throwing for 2,892 yards and running for an additional 478 before suffering his injury against New Mexico Nov. 12. He led the Mountain West and was fourth in the nation for total offense at 337 yards per game.

Ratliff, who showed off his strong arm in the last two games of the season and led Utah to wins over BYU and Georgia Tech, makes the right decisions and has good speed and agility for his size (6-4, 224). His confidence has grown immeasurably after the strong finish, so the competition figures to continue through the fall.

Some unanswered questions remain at running back, where sophomore Darrell Mack will get the chance to be an every-down player. His blocking skills need some work, but Mack is quick, elusive and capable of putting up big numbers. Former USC transfer Darryl Poston was granted an extra year of eligibility from the NCAA, however, health remains an issue with him. Also trying to shake the injury bug is Mike Liti, who averaged 4.0 yards a carry in seven games last year.

On the offensive line, senior tackle Tavo Tupola was a second-team all-conference pick last season and junior Jason Boone anchors the unit on the other side. Robert Conley, a 311-pound sophomore, made dramatic improvement in his first year and will start at right guard. Redshirt freshman Zane Beadles, along with Dustin Hensel and Corey Seiuli, should all find themselves getting time. All-conference center Jesse Boone must be replaced and either Kyle Gunther or Jeremy Inferrera will get the opportunity.

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★
DEFENSE	★★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	Mountain West:
7-5	4-4

(beat Georgia Tech in the Emerald Bowl, 38-10)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@UCLA	
S. 9	Northern Arizona	
S. 16	@UTAH STATE	31-7
S. 23	@SAN DIEGO STATE	19-28
S. 30	Boise State	
O. 5	TCU	20-23 (OT)
O. 14	@WYOMING	43-13
O. 19	@NEW MEXICO	27-31
O. 28	UNLV	42-32
N. 11	Colorado State	17-21
N. 18	@AIR FORCE	38-35
N. 25	Brigham Young	41-34 (OT)

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Utes get the defending conference champs at home, which is a chance to make an early statement in conference play.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/29

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Brian Johnson (6-1, 199, Jr.)
RB	12	Darrell Mack (6-0, 216, So.)
LT	78	Tavo Tupola (6-3, 300, Sr.)
LG	75	Eric Pettit (6-4, 306, Sr.)
C	63	Kyle Gunther (6-4, 302, Jr.)
RG	66	Robert Conley (6-1, 311, So.)
RT	69	Jason Boone (6-4, 294, Jr.)
WR	26	Derrek Richards (5-11, 175, Jr.)
WR	5	Brent Casteel (5-10, 193, So.)
WR	2	Marquis Wilson (5-11, 173, So.)
WR	16	Brian Hernandez (6-0, 175, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Martail Burnett (6-3, 248, Jr.)
DT	98	Kelly Talavou (6-2, 307, Sr.)
DT	90	Paul Soliai (6-4, 318, Sr.)
DE	97	Soli Lefiti (6-4, 265, Sr.)
SLB	14	Kyle Brady (6-1, 232, Jr.)
MLB	37	Loma Olevao (6-1, 232, Jr.)
WLB	44	Joe Jiannoni (6-1, 230, Jr.)
CB	6	Brice McCain (5-9, 178, So.)
CB	29	Eric Shyne (5-10, 178, Sr.)
FS	28	Steve Tate (5-11, 197, Jr.)
SS	32	Eric Weddle (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	35	Louie Sakoda (5-10, 175, So.)
P	35	Louie Sakoda (5-10, 175, So.)

Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)

Utah's defense is led by strong safety Eric Weddle, the 2005 Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year. The three-year letterman is a strong hitter with great football instincts. He is capable of playing any position in the secondary, which gives Whittingham some flexibility. Casey Evans, a second-team all-conference performer, and Steve Tate, a former walk-on who had 46 tackles (including 10 in the Emerald Bowl), complement Weddle nicely.

The Utes' linebacker unit will miss Spencer Toone, but Joe Jiannoni had 73 tackles in the middle spot and the junior should only get better as he is moved to rover this season. Chet Blasucci and Loma Olevao will vie for Jiannoni's spot, while Kyle Brady rounds out the group at strongside.

Utah does have some questions on the defensive line, but a big season from Kelly Talavou could put those concerns to rest. He'll move from nose guard to tackle and 318-pound Paul Soliai will take the responsibilities in the middle.

Louie Sakoda will be Utah's third different kicker in as many years. He averaged just 37.1 yards a punt and his 63 kickoffs resulted in only 13 touchbacks. Those are numbers that could hurt the Utes if they don't improve.

With 26 redshirts and transfers returning along with 17 new recruits, Whittingham has the program poised for a climb back to the top of the standings—if not this year, then likely in 2007. At the very least, Utah should have another winning season and a bowl game appearance.

Head coach: Kyle Whittingham, 2nd year (7-5)
Career record: 7-5
Assistant coaches: Andy Ludwig (off. coord./QBs), Charlie Dickey (off. line), Jay Boulware, (TEs/co-special teams coord.), Aaron Roderick (WRs), Dave Schramm (RBs), Gary Andersen (def. coord./def. line) Jay Hill (CBs/co-special teams coord.) Derrick Odum (safeties), Kalani Sitake (ILBs)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Walter Watts**, OL, 6-3, 315 *California star touted as top prospect.*
2	**Zeke Wily**, DL, 6-4, 310 *In-state product could also play offense.*
3	**Justin Jones**, DB, 6-0, 180 *Texan has secondary tools, skills.*
4	**Chet Blasucci**, LB, 6-2, 240 *Junior-college prospect has promise.*
5	**Aaron Tonga**, DL, 6-3, 280 *Another juco product who could play.*

ALBUQUERQUE

NEW MEXICO LOBOS

PRESEASON RANK:

#4

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	▲7
2003	▲8
2002	▲7
2001	6

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Rocky Long, 9th year (46-50)
Career record: 46-50
Stadium: University Stadium
Capacity: 38,634
Official athletic Web site: www.golobos.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Portland State	
S. 9	@NEW MEXICO ST.	38-21
S. 16	Missouri	45-35
S. 23	UTEP	13-21
S. 30	@AIR FORCE	24-42
O. 7	Wyoming	27-24
O. 14	@UNLV	24-22
O. 19	Utah	31-27
O. 28	@COLORADO STATE	25-35
N. 11	TCU	28-49
N. 18	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-27
N. 25	San Diego State	47-24

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It's the last game of the year, it's at home and it could be for a bowl bid. A lot could be riding on this one.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/22

OFFENSE		
QB	12	Kole McKamey (6-2, 205, Sr.)
FB	31	Matt Quillen (6-0, 249, So.)
TB	8	Martelius Epps (5-10, 182, Jr.)
LT	75	Anthony Kilby (6-4, 335, Jr.)
LG	64	Bo Greer (6-3, 318, Sr.)
C	66	Vince Natali (2-2, 298, Jr.)
RG	63	Matt Streid (6-3, 320, Jr.)
RT	59	Robert Turner (6-4, 325, Sr.)
TE	83	John Mulchrone (6-4, 230, Sr.)
WR	81	Travis Brown (6-3, 180, Jr.)
WR	4	Marcus Smith (6-3, 209, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	41	Michael Tuohy (6-2, 233, Jr.)
NT	60	Billy Brittain (6-1, 249, Sr.)
RE	57	S. Hutchinson (6-3, 242, Jr.)
LB	47	Cody Kase (6-2, 212, Jr.)
LB	48	Justin Clayton (5-10, 212, Sr.)
LB	11	Quincy Black (6-3, 232, Sr.)
LB	9	Tyson Ditmore (6-1, 203, Jr.)
LCB	19	Glover Quin (5-10, 200, So.)
RCB	10	Juamar Hall (5-11, 172, Jr.)
LS	29	Blake Ligon (6-1, 177, So.)
RS	2	DeAndre Wright (6-0, 178, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK		Kenny Byrd (6-0, 166, Sr.)
P		Jordan Scott (6-0, 186, Jr.)

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, **4-4 Mountain West**

It wasn't that long ago that a 6-5 season would be cause for celebration in Albuquerque. But Lobos Coach Rocky Long may have become a victim of his own success. Expectations have risen considerably since Long took over nine years ago, and three straight winning regular seasons have produced lofty goals in the minds of New Mexico fans.

Of greater concern to New Mexico should be last year's 4-4 conference record. After three straight second-place finishes, the Lobos finished in a three-way tie for fourth in 2005. To address that issue, Long has brought in former UCLA Coach Bob Toledo to shake up the offense—and if there's one thing Toledo knows how to do, it's to open things up with the football. Look for New Mexico to play at a higher tempo and the unexpected to be the expected.

The guy who should have the most fun this year is senior quarterback Kole McKamey. If he has recovered from a back injury that cut his junior season short (missing the final two games), McKamey could have a breakout year. He can run with the ball as well as pass it, and Toledo will figure out a way to maximize both talents.

McKamey has some talented guys to throw the ball to in receivers Travis Brown, Thomas Wilson, Marcus Smith and tight end John Mulchrone. Together, they should make up for the loss of departed senior Hank Baskett, who had 67 receptions in 2005.

The other concern is at running back, where DonTrell Moore and his 118-yard average last season have moved on. A four-time first-team all-conference selection and the school's career rushing leader, Moore was the Lobos' leading scorer with 17 touchdowns last season. Martelius Epps, Rodney Ferguson and Paul Baker are all untested, and that will perhaps accelerate Toledo's plans to open things up if there's no running game. New Mexico also lost a star on its offensive line in center Ryan Cook, who was drafted in the second round by the Vikings.

Long wants to see a return to the kind of defensive intensity that helped New Mexico (which gave up 29.7 points per game last year) be a MWC contender in years past. The Lobos lost three first-team all-conference players in tackle Evroy Thompson, linebacker Mike Mohoric and cornerback Gabriel Fulbright.

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

AIR FORCE FALCONS

PRESEASON RANK:

#5

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	5
2003	7
2002	▲8
2001	6

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Fisher DeBerry, 23rd year (165-101-1)
Career record: 165-101-1
Stadium: Falcon Stadium
Capacity: 46,692
Official athletic Web site: www.airforcesports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 9	@TENNESSEE	
S. 23	@WYOMING	28-29
S. 30	New Mexico	42-24
O. 7	Navy	24-27
O. 12	Colorado State	23-41
O. 21	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-29
O. 28	Brigham Young	41-62
N. 3	@ARMY	24-27
N. 11	Notre Dame	
N. 18	Utah	35-38
N. 24	@UNLV	42-7
D. 2	@TCU	10-48

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

It's one thing for Air Force to lose to Navy, since the Midshipmen have picked up the quality of their program. But a second straight loss to Army here won't sit well with the generals.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/21

OFFENSE		
QB	5	Shaun Carney (5-10, 190, Jr.),
FB	8	Jacobe Kendrick (6-0, 230, Sr.)
SB	18	Justin Handley (5-8, 175, Sr.)
WB	23	Chad Hall (5-8, 180, Jr.)
LT	72	Robert Kraay (6-8, 295, Sr.)
LG	61	Tyler Dohallow (6-3, 280, Sr.)
C	60	Stuart Perlow (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RG	62	Curtis Grantham (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RT	70	Ryan Zeman (6-4, 265, Jr.)
TE	86	Chris Evans (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WR	81	Victor Thompson (6-0, 195, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	55	Gilberto Perez (6-3, 275, Sr.)
LT	96	Grant Thomas (6-1, 275, Sr.)
RT	99	Kevin Quinn (6-1, 245, Sr.)
RE	97	Josh Clayton (6-4, 250, So.)
LB	33	Drew Fowler (6-2, 235, Jr.)
LB	9	John Rabold (6-4, 220, So.)
FAL	4	Julian Madrid (6-0, 205, Jr.)
FAL	32	Hunter Altman (5-11, 195, So.)
LC	3	Nathan Smith (5-10, 175, Jr.)
RC	6	Chris Sutton (6-0, 180, Sr.)
FS	11	Bobby Giannini (6-2, 210, So.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	47	Zach Sasser (6-1, 175, Sr.)
P	87	Chris Carp (5-9, 170, Sr.)

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-5 Mountain West**

Scheme-wise, not much has changed at the Air Force Academy. The Falcons will run the triple option and hope all the extra time the opposition spent in film sessions trying to stop it will be in vain.

Different now, however, is the end result. Air Force Coach Fisher DeBerry is not accustomed to losing and after two such seasons straight, questions about whether it's time to tweak the system are starting to surface. The Falcons failed to capitalize on a fast 2-0 start in 2005 and wound up losing seven of their last nine to finish 4-7. It was the worst season for DeBerry since he went 4-8 in 1993.

However, don't expect anything to change. Air Force remains one of the top rushing teams in the nation. Last year, the Falcons were eighth in the country in rushing offense, churning out an average of 246.5 yards a game. But the big problem was the other team was moving the ball, too, as the Falcons were next-to-last for scoring defense in the Mountain West. They allowed 31.7 points a game, simply too many for a team that utilizes a ball-control offense.

So what does DeBerry do? He's got five returning starters from last year's defense, including end Gilberto Perez, a good player who is coming off knee surgery. Junior free safety Bobby Giannini is also talented and quickly earning a reputation for being a big hitter. But the Falcons gave up a lot of big plays last season and if they're going to get better as a unit, it begins with getting stops.

If the Falcons aren't better on defense, it means the offense is going to have to score a lot of points. And that means quarterback Shaun Carney is going to get hit a lot, whether or not he has the ball. The junior rushed for 710 yards last year and 11 touchdowns while passing for 1,393 yards and seven TDs. He connected on 64.2 percent of his passes and had just seven interceptions.

But Air Force usually doesn't win when it's throwing the ball. So junior running back Chad Hall will have to improve on his 31.3-yard average per game from a year ago. He only had 66 rushing attempts, as Carney and Jacobe Kendrick got the majority of the touches. Kendrick, a senior fullback, pounded his way for 532 yards and six touchdowns and figures to continue to get a lot of carries again this season.

HELMETS COURTESY SCHUTTE OIL, ARCO, INC.

FORT COLLINS

COLORADO STATE RAMS

2005 Record: 6-6 overall, **5-3 Mountain West**
(lost to Navy in the Poinsetta Bowl, 51-30)

The Rams are a program that's not used to losing. So it was encouraging to see Colorado State bounce back from a 4-7 performance in 2004 to go 6-6 and make it to a bowl game in 2005.

Even better was the fact Coach Sonny Lubick's team finished 5-3 in the Mountain West, good for a second-place tie. That the Rams got blown out 51-30 by Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl doesn't diminish the accomplishments in Lubick's eyes.

Colorado State's turnaround was due to improved quarterback play from Justin Holland, a better job of running the ball by Kyle Bell and an ability to put points on the board. But Holland has graduated, which likely leaves the controls to Caleb Hanie, who was 13 of 29 for 251 yards and two touchdowns in limited action last year.

The nice thing for the Rams is that Hanie doesn't necessarily have to go out and win the game for them each Saturday. In Bell, they have a reliable back who can handle a heavy workload. He had 276 carries last year and averaged 107.3 yards a game.

If Hanie needs to throw the ball, he's got some weapons at his disposal. Split end Johnny Walker had 43 catches and two touchdowns last year and H-back Kory Sperry had 42 grabs and four TDs. Dustin Osborn also can make plays, as he had five touchdown catches among his 19 receptions.

On the other side of the ball, Colorado State's defense needs to pick things up, with the Rams allowing almost 31 points a game last year. Lubick's teams have been good defensively in the past and rising star Jesse Nading will be charged with getting the unit going in the right direction. The junior defensive end led the team with four sacks in 2005.

Defensive tackle Blake Smith is also effective, giving CSU a nice tandem up front. Defensive end Wade Landers was coming on late in the season as a freshman and perhaps will emerge as a force this season.

Colorado State was plus-5 on takeaways a year ago, so if the Rams can get that number into double digits, it would go a long way toward addressing their defensive concerns. Special teams are not a problem, as punter Jimmie Kaylor was a first-team all-conference performer last year. He averaged 45.3 yards a kick, the best punting average at the school in 30 years.

PRESEASON RANK:

#6

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Sonny Lubick, 14th year (101-57) **Career record:** 122-76
Stadium: Sunny Lubbock Field at Hughes Stadium
Capacity: 34,400
Official athletic Web site: www.csurams.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Weber State	
S. 9	Colorado*	28-31
S. 16	@NEVADA	42-21
S. 30	@FRESNO STATE	
O. 7	UNLV	31-27
O. 12	@AIR FORCE	41-23
O. 21	@WYOMING	39-31
O. 28	New Mexico	35-25
N. 4	Brigham Young	14-24
N. 11	@UTAH	21-17
N. 25	TCU	6-33
D. 2	@SAN DIEGO STATE	10-30

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Buffaloes may have a new coach, but the hatred for CU remains as strong as ever.

* at Denver

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/15

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Caleb Hanie (6-2, 236, Jr.)
RB	34	Kyle Bell (6-2, 226, Jr.)
HB	80	Kory Sperry (6-6, 233, Jr.)
LT	71	Clint Oldenburg (6-5, 297, Sr.)
LG	67	Jerome Williams (6-2, 334, Sr.)
C	64	Nick Allotta (6-3, 304, Jr.)
RG	76	Josh Day (6-4, 304, Sr.)
RT	75	Dane Stratton (6-5, 299, So.)
TE	88	Chris Kawulok (6-3, 251, So.)
SE	7	Johnny Walker (6-0, 190, Jr.)
FL	85	Dustin Osborn (6-0, 194, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	93	Wade Landers (6-6, 235, So.)
NT	97	Blake Smith (6-2, 269, So.)
DT	45	Matt Rupp (6-3, 275, So.)
RE	59	Jesse Nading (6-5, 258, Jr.)
SLB	9	Luke Adkins (6-2, 241, Sr.)
MLB	51	Jeff Horinek (6-3, 236, So.)
WLB	25	Jon Radford (6-1, 241, Sr.)
CB	39	Darryl Williams (5-9, 180, Jr.)
CB	6	Robert Herbert (6-1, 208, Sr.)
FS	20	Klint Kubiak (6-0, 190, So.)
SS	3	Ben Stratton (6-2, 207, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	37	Jason Smith (6-2, 201, So.)
P	8	Jimmie Kaylor (6-3, 198, Jr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

LAS VEGAS

UNLV REBELS

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **1-7 Mountain West**

Remember those youth football camps where the players wear their last name on the front of their helmet? That's going to be the case in Las Vegas this season, where second-year Coach Mike Sanford has overhauled the operation and has shuffled in numerous players to wear the scarlet and gray.

The most heralded newcomer is quarterback Rocky Hinds. A one-time USC prodigy, Hinds transferred to UNLV last year and is ready to go after sitting out in 2005 due to NCAA rules. How effective he'll be remains to be seen, since Hinds hasn't played an actual game in almost three years. But he's got a big arm, is athletic and has the tools to run Sanford's spread offense.

If Hinds isn't UNLV's starting quarterback in the season opener, that means Shane Steichen will have beaten him. Steichen, a senior, was neck-and-neck with Hinds at the end of spring practice, but when the competition continues in August, look for the newest Rebel to emerge as the starter.

Hinds isn't the only gem waiting to show what he can do. UCLA transfer Eric Wright is the shutdown cornerback the Rebels have been waiting for, and he'll add to an already-good secondary. Senior John Guice can hit, while Nate Kenion and Jay Staggs gained valuable experience in the system last year.

Up front, Howie Fuimaono anchors a young defensive line, and the senior nose guard's extra attracted attention will allow transfer Jeremy Geathers the opportunity to beat his man one-on-one.

The Rebels' linebacker unit will be better too, as junior Beau Bell is all-league caliber and junior-college transfer Adrian Bradley is expected to contribute right away. The defense has nowhere to go but up after finishing dead last in the league in points allowed (34.6 a game).

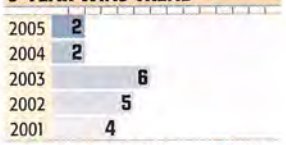
UNLV was also last in total offense, averaging just 325.2 yards and 18.8 points a game. But with Hinds, tailback Erick Jackson and a group of young and talented receivers to throw to, the Rebels should escape the bottom of that statistical category.

The team has a reliable placekicker in Sergio Aguayo and a solid punter in Kip Facer, who averaged 41 yards per boot in 2005. What this team needs is some confidence, and a win Sept. 2 against Idaho State is a good start.

PRESEASON RANK:

#7

5-YEAR WINS TREND



■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Mike Sanford, 2nd year (2-9)
Career record: 2-9
Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium
Capacity: 36,800
Official athletic Web site: www.unlvrebels.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Idaho State	
S. 9	@IOWA STATE	
S. 16	@HAWAII	
S. 30	Nevada	14-22
O. 7	@COLORADO STATE	27-31
O. 14	New Mexico	22-24
O. 21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-55
O. 28	@UTAH	32-42
N. 4	TCU	3-51
N. 11	@SAN DIEGO STATE	13-10
N. 18	Wyoming	17-42
N. 24	Air Force	7-42

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

There's always bad blood between the two Silver State schools and after road games at Iowa State and Hawaii, this contest could define UNLV's season.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/26

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Rocky Hinds (6-5, 220, So.)
TB	26	Erick Jackson (5-6, 185, Sr.)
HB	17	R. Saint Preux (6-1, 180, So.)
LT	77	Chris Bowser (6-6, 285, Sr.)
LG	63	Brandon Gray (6-4, 325, Sr.)
C	54	Aaron Mueller (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RG	74	Mike McKiski (6-6, 320, Jr.)
RT	70	Marco Guerra (6-5, 335, Sr.)
WR	7	Corey Anderson (6-0, 170, So.)
WR	84	Rodelin Anthony (6-5, 220, r-Fr.)
WR	80	Casey Flair (6-1, 190, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	9	Jeremy Geathers (6-2, 250, So.)
NG	94	Howie Fuimaono (6-0, 335, Sr.)
DE	92	Jacob Hales (6-5, 280, So.)
LB	47	Beau Bell (6-3, 235, Jr.)
LB	34	Matt Pattison (6-3, 230, Sr.)
LB	52	Adrian Bradley (5-11, 225, Jr.)
CB	1	John Guice (5-9, 180, Sr.)
CB	21	Eric Wright (5-11, 190, Jr.)
NB	36	Nate Kenion (5-10, 200, Sr.)
S	25	Daryl Forte (5-10, 180, Fr.)
S	42	Jay Staggs (6-1, 225, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	10	Sergio Aguayo (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	82	Kip Facer (6-0, 210, Sr.)

SAN DIEGO STATE
AZTECS

PRESEASON RANK:

#8

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	5
2004	4
2003	6
2002	4
2001	3

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Chuck Long, 1st year
Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium
Capacity: 54,000
Official athletic Web site: www.goaztecs.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	UTEP	
S. 16	@WISCONSIN	
S. 23	Utah	28-19
S. 30	@SAN JOSE STATE	52-21
O. 7	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	31-10
O. 21	Air Force	29-41
O. 28	Cal Poly	
N. 4	@WYOMING	34-21
N. 11	UNLV	10-13
N. 18	@TCU	20-23
N. 25	@NEW MEXICO	24-47
D. 2	Colorado State	30-10

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

The Aztecs open the Chuck Long Era at home, giving him an immediate chance to win over the community and instill some confidence in the players.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/17

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Kevin O'Connell (6-6, 220, Jr.)
HB	37	Brandon Bornes (6-1, 215, Jr.)
TB	22	Lynell Hamilton (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LT	76	Will Robinson (6-6, 270, Jr.)
LG	59	Nick Smith (6-6, 280, Sr.)
C	75	Patrick Justman (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RG	77	Mike Schmidt (6-2, 300, So.)
RT	70	Mike Kravetz (6-5, 290, Jr.)
TE	81	Steve Schmidt (6-5, 240, Sr.)
WR	1	C. Schilens (6-4, 205, Jr.)
WR	16	Brett Swain (6-1, 200, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	A. Applewhite (6-3, 235, Jr.)
DT	96	Frederick Amano (6-3, 300, Jr.)
NT	99	Jonathan Bailes (6-1, 297, Sr.)
DE	94	Nick Osborn (6-4, 255, Jr.)
SLB	45	Andrew Schantz (6-2, 235, So.)
MLB	51	Joe Martin (6-1, 225, Sr.)
WLB	46	Russell Allen (6-3, 225, So.)
CB	9	Terrell Maze (5-11, 170, Sr.)
CB	3	Donny Baker (5-9, 165, Sr.)
LS	12	Brett Sturm (6-2, 200, Sr.)
RS	31	Reggie Grigsby (5-11, 205, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	14	Garrett Palmer (6-2, 180, So.)
P	17	Michael Hughes (5-10, 185, Jr.)

2005 Record: 5-7 overall, **4-4 Mountain West**

After letting go of the underachieving Tom Craft, the Aztecs now look for new Coach Chuck Long to revive their sagging football fortunes.

Long, who has spent the last six years at Oklahoma (including the last four as the Sooners' offensive coordinator), is not going for the quick fix. Don't look for him to just open things up and play wild-and-crazy football. Quite the opposite, actually. Long's plan is to stay the course, play ball control, stop people on defense and build a solid foundation.

Of course, that sort of thinking takes time. And while SDSU's dwindling fan base may not be patient, Long is. More important, so is Athletic Director Jeff Schemmel, the guy who hired Long in December.

Look for the Aztecs to be more disciplined in everything they do. That means an end to the stupid penalties, mental mistakes and high-risk schemes that defined Craft's tenure—which alone will make San Diego State better.

So will getting the most out of its talent. The Aztecs have guys who can play, but consistency hasn't been a trademark of late. Quarterback Kevin O'Connell has the tools to be a very good college quarterback and the junior threw for 2,663 yards and 19 touchdowns last season, along with 12 interceptions. Look for Long to put in an offensive package that will economize O'Connell's throws and turn him into more of a high-percentage passer.

The Aztecs also have a talented running back in junior Lynell Hamilton, who has been SDSU's leading rusher in each of his first two seasons and had 26 receptions for 144 yards to go along with his 819 rushing yards and nine TDs last year. Hamilton is the perfect all-purpose back for what Long is looking to do and has the chance to be a special player.

While the Aztecs may have been frustrating to watch when on offense, they weren't much better on the other side of the ball. The defense allowed an average of 406 yards a game, third worst in the Mountain West. Cornerbacks Terrell Maze and Donny Baker and safety Reggie Grigsby lead the secondary. Linebacker Joe Martin, a three-year letterman and All-MWC honorable-mention pick last year, should also be a force. The Aztecs have a rising star in junior punter Michael Hughes.

WYOMING
COWBOYS

PRESEASON RANK:

#9

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	▲ 7
2003	4
2002	2
2001	2

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Joe Glenn, 4th year (15-20)
Career record: 173-79-1
Stadium: Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium
Capacity: 32,580
Official athletic Web site: www.wyomingathletics.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Utah State	
S. 9	@VIRGINIA	
S. 16	Boise State	
S. 23	Air Force	29-28
S. 30	@SYRACUSE	
O. 7	@NEW MEXICO	24-27
O. 14	Utah	13-43
O. 21	Colorado State	31-39
O. 28	@TCU	14-28
N. 4	San Diego State	21-34
N. 9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	21-35
N. 18	@UNLV	42-17

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

This game is Wyoming's conference opener and it's imperative the Cowboys get off to a fast start if they hope to make some noise in the Mountain West. The Falcons aren't as dominating as they've been in the past.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/29

OFFENSE		
QB	7	Jacob Doss (6-2, 210, Jr.)
TB	18	Wynel Seldon (6-0, 205, So.)
LT	73	Chase Johnson (6-8, 325, Sr.)
LG	76	Kyle Howard (6-6, 299, So.)
C	69	Jason Karcher (6-3, 291, Sr.)
RG	74	Tim Bond (6-4, 296, So.)
RT	67	Hunter Richards (6-7, 297, Sr.)
TE	46	Wade Betschart (6-3, 255, Jr.)
WR	8	Michael Ford (6-2, 203, Jr.)
WR	5	Tyler Holden (6-0, 179, Sr.)
WR	6	Hoost Marsh (5-9, 172, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Corey Mace (6-3, 287, Sr.)
NG	97	Jake Mayes (6-3, 292, Sr.)
DT	93	Mike Groover (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LB	80	Mike Juergens (6-4, 240, So.)
LB	29	Ward Dobbs (6-0, 242, So.)
LB	53	Luke Chase (6-1, 240, Jr.)
LB	45	Austin Hall (6-2, 225, Sr.)
CB	20	Julius Stinson (5-10, 177, Jr.)
CB	28	Michael Medina (6-0, 181, Jr.)
FS	24	Dorsey Golston (6-0, 194, Sr.)
SS	23	John Wendling (6-1, 222, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	89	Jake Scott (5-8, 157, r-Fr.)
P	25	Billy Vinnedge (6-1, 188, Jr.)

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **2-6 Mountain West**

Cowboys Coach Joe Glenn has been beloved since the day he stepped foot in Laramie three years ago. But is the bloom off the rose?

Big things were expected from the Cowboys in 2005. They were coming off a huge 24-21 win over UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl and with a 7-5 record, fans were hoping for even more fun at War Memorial Stadium. Instead, the team lost a couple of close games late last season and the 4-1 start wound up being a 4-7 finish. Worse, the team returns just six starters on both sides of the ball, which means there's a lot of rebuilding for Glenn and his staff.

Wyoming needs to find a new quarterback for the graduated Corey Bramlet. The Cowboys also lost star receiver and kick returner Jovon Bouknight and wideout Jason Wallace, as well as tight end John Wadkowski. Center Drew Severn, who started all 11 games last year, also needs to be replaced.

So who will take the snaps from center? Junior Jacob Doss figures to have a good shot to start, given his experience in the program. But junior-college transfer Ian Hetrick is expected to battle for the spot. The good news is whoever gets the quarterback job will likely find himself being fairly well protected, as most of the big offensive line is back, including tackles Chase Johnson and Hunter Richards, center Jason Karcher and guard Kyle Howard.

Wyoming has no problems in its running game, with sophomore Wynel Seldon scoring 11 touchdowns to go along with an average of 79.2 yards a game last season. Since the Cowboys will have an unproven player under center, expect Seldon to get a lot of touches this year.

If the Cowboys are to get back to winning ways, it may be their defense that carries the day. The team's linebacker corps remains intact, as Luke Chase, Mike Juergens, Ward Dobbs and Austin Hall anchor the 3-4 alignment. Those four cover a lot of ground, are good hitters and play well together. The secondary is led by strong safety John Wendling, who finished second on the team in tackles (75) last season and was an honorable-mention all-conference pick. Up front, Jake Mayes has experience at noseguard and will attract extra attention.

Wyoming has big holes to fill at punter and placekicker.

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Ryne Robinson**, Miami	*Most elusive RB*	**Garrett Wolfe**, Northern Illinois	*Top NFL prospect*	**Doug Free**, OT, Northern Illinois
Best hands	**Eric Deslauriers**, WR, Eastern Michigan	*Best instincts*	**Daniel Holtzclaw**, LB, Eastern Michigan	*Top impact freshman*	**Ray Williams**, RB, Toledo
Best passing QB	**Luke Getsy**, Akron	*Best athlete*	**Jabari Arthur**, WR, Akron	*Hardest hitter*	**Dan Bazuin**, DE, Central Michigan
Best running QB	**Tyler Jones**, Eastern Michigan	*Best under pressure*	**Chris Nendick**, PK, Northern Illinois	*Biggest underachiever*	**Mark Bonds**, RB, Western Michigan

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Can Northern Illinois rebuild its offensive line?** The position has been a team strength in recent seasons. If this year's line is good enough, the Huskies will be the class of the MAC.
2. **Will Akron repeat its successful run of last season?** The Zips won their first MAC title since entering the conference in 1992; their berth in the Motor City Bowl was the team's first postseason appearance since becoming a Division I-A member in 1987.
3. **Can Miami replace 16 graduated starters?** Depth has not been a problem for the RedHawks in recent seasons, but it sure will be a test as Miami looks to record its 13th straight winning season in the MAC.
4. **What kind of play will Toledo get at quarterback?** After three years of being led by the steady Bruce Gradkowski, the Rockets have enough talent to contend if they get solid play behind center.
5. **What team will surprise the rest of the league?** It's a yearly event in the MAC to see one team confound the experts and challenge for a title. This year there are plenty of candidates, including Ball State, Central Michigan, Ohio and Western Michigan.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **BALL STATE**: Seven Georgia recruits highlight this "peachy" class.
2. **AKRON**: Ten Florida recruits are key to this group.
3. **TOLEDO**: "Big" class includes nine linemen.
4. **BOWLING GREEN**: One of nation's top prep punters is among 24 signees.
5. **MIAMI**: Fifteen of 22 signees are from Buckeye state.
6. **WESTERN MICHIGAN**: Fifteen of 22 newcomers expected to play offense.
7. **NORTHERN ILLINOIS**: Seventeen signees, in what Coach Joe Novak calls his most "athletic" class.
8. **CENTRAL MICHIGAN**: A whopping 12 defensive backs among 26 signees.
9. **EASTERN MICHIGAN**: Several top running backs among 22 players signed.
10. **OHIO**: Ten Ohioans–and one Nebraskan–signed by Coach Frank Solich.
11. **BUFFALO**: Only 18 signees in Coach Turner Gill's first class.
12. **KENT STATE**: Just 16 signees won't help team's depth.

One-time doormat Akron looks to Zip to a MAC repeat

By **JOHN WAGNER** *The Toledo Blade*

Many people felt the Mid-American Conference came of age on September 20, 2003. That was the date three different league schools (Northern Illinois, Marshall and Toledo) scored victories over BCS programs.

Some feel the MAC took its biggest step forward in the 2004 bowl season, when the conference received an unprecedented five bowl bids, more than double its previous high. But the truth of the matter is the MAC's biggest advancement may have come last season. How, you ask? It's true that the league's most notable victory last season was Ohio's overtime win against a disappointing Pittsburgh squad, and the MAC garnered just two bowl bids—both of which have automatic ties to the league. And there were no earth-shaking performances that vaulted players to first-round NFL Draft status, such as the effort former Miami quarterback Ben Roethlisberger produced in 2003.

Still, last season eventually may prove to be more important to the MAC's development because of a major difference from years past: The league's upper stratus had a visitor.

In previous years, the MAC had seemed to form into two levels. The first plane included teams with a legitimate shot at a league title, a group that was usually made up of Bowling Green, Miami, Northern Illinois, Toledo and Marshall, which last year departed for Conference USA.

The other MAC schools seemed to be at a lower level, occasionally challenging the "big boys," but generally struggling just to reach the .500 level. Then last season Akron crashed the party, winning its first league title since joining the conference in 1992.

And what's more, both Western Michigan and Central Michigan nearly joined the party as well, finishing one game behind West Division champs Northern Illinois and Toledo.

Now, Akron's championship was anything but convincing. It had to win a three-way tiebreaker just to claim the East Division title, and it took a touchdown with just 10 seconds to play for the Zips to beat Northern Illinois in the MAC Championship game. And while the two Michigan schools came close, neither actually reached the summit.

But this isn't a question of whether Akron was deserving of the title, or if the improvement by the Broncos and Chippewas was a fluke. The bigger, more important question is whether one of those three teams, or perhaps another club outside The Big Four can compete for the title this year.

Why is it important? The MAC is striving to shake off its "mid-major" label and can't when some of its members lose by lopsided margins to the BCS schools.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-MAC TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Luke Getsy, Sr., Akron	DL	Daniel Bazuin, Sr., Central Michigan
RB	Garrett Wolfe, Sr., Northern Illinois	DL	Kevin Howe, Sr., Eastern Michigan
RB	Kalvin McRae, Jr., Ohio	DL	Kiki Gonzalez, Sr., Akron
OT	Doug Free, Sr., Northern Illinois	DL	Daniel Muir, Sr., Kent State
OT	John Greco, Jr., Toledo	LB	Mike Alston, Sr., Toledo
C	Kory Lichtensteiger, r-Jr., Bowling Green	LB	Matt Muncy, Sr., Ohio
OG	Derrick Markray, Sr., Bowling Green	LB	Ameer Ismail, Sr., Western Michigan
OG	Justin Schneider, Sr., Ball State	DB	John Mackey, Jr., Akron
WR	Ryne Robinson, Sr., Miami	DB	Joey Card, Sr., Miami
WR	Eric Deslauriers, Sr., Eastern Michigan	DB	Louis Delmas, So., Western Michigan
TE	Jake Nordin, Sr., Northern Illinois	DB	Nigel Morris, Jr., Toledo
PK	Andrew Wellock, Sr., Eastern Michigan	P	Chris Miller, So., Ball State

Predicted order of finish:

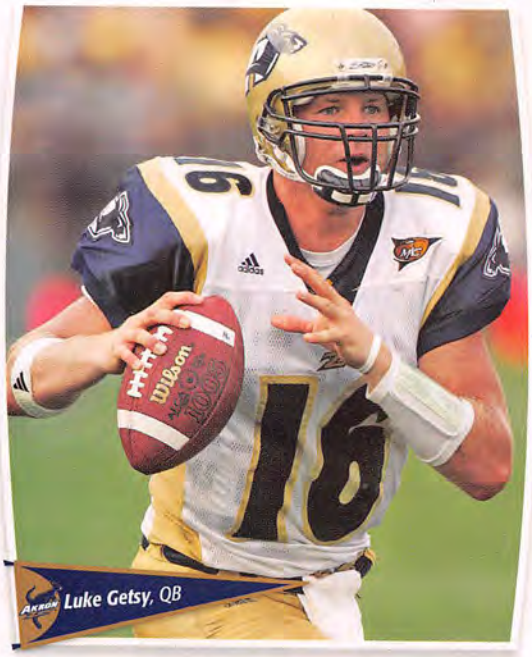
EAST

1. Akron — p. 130 — STOCK: UP
2. RedHawks — p. 131 — STOCK: STEADY
3. Miami — p. 131 — STOCK: STEADY
4. Ohio — p. 132 — STOCK: DOWN
5. Bowling Green — p. 132 — STOCK: DOWN
6. Kent State — p. 132 — STOCK: DOWN

WEST

1. NIU Huskies — p. 133 — STOCK: STEADY
2. Toledo — p. 134 — STOCK: STEADY
3. Central Michigan — p. 134 — STOCK: UP
4. Broncos — p. 135 — STOCK: UP
5. Eastern Michigan — p. 135 — STOCK: DOWN
6. Ball State — p. 135 — STOCK: DOWN

AKRON ZIPS


Luke Getsy, QB

PRESEASON RANK:

1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★★
COACHING	★★★

2005 Record:	MAC:
7-6	5-3

(lost to Memphis in the Motor City Bowl, 38-31)

Stadium: Rubber Bowl (31,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Head coach: J.D. Brookhart, 3rd year (13-11)
Career record: 13-11
Assistant coaches: Jim Pry (co-off. coord./QBs), Joe Moorhead (co-off. coord./WRs), Jim Fleming (def. coord./safeties), Brian Callahan (off. line), Mark Nori (TEs/tackles), Aaron Alford (DBs), Bill Bleil (RBs), Dana Chambers (def. line), Mike Dawson (LBs)

MID AMERICAN EAST

Akron determined to prove naysayers wrong, repeat as champs

What a difference a year has made for the Zips.

At this point last season, many wondered if Akron's push for the East Division title in 2004 was a phenomenon or a presage. The Zips answered that question with an exclamation point in 2005, winning the East in a tiebreaker and scoring a last-second touchdown against Northern Illinois to win the MAC Championship game.

While the Zips return eight starters on offense, the loss of two receivers and their leading running back have stripped some of that unit's luster. Much of the burden will fall on quarterback Luke Getsy, who threw for 3,455 yards and 23 touchdowns last season, and an offensive line that returns all five of its starters—four of whom are seniors.

Who will fill the shoes of all-league tailback Brett Biggs? That's a good question, and an important one since Biggs ran for 1,230 yards and caught 65 passes, which was the fourth-highest single-season receiving total in school history.

The candidates include sophomores Dennis Kennedy and Alex Allen, while redshirt freshman Bryant McMillon also might get a shot.

And who will fill the spots of graduated wideouts Domenik Hixon and Jason Montgomery?

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Mickey Baker**, LB, 5-11, 225 *Junior College All-American should help.*
2	**Andre Boone**, RB, 5-10, 190 *Virginia import can be impact player.*
3	**Mark Jackson**, C, 6-6, 295 *Massive blocker could anchor O-Line.*
4	**Sean Hakes**, QB, 6-3, 200 *Texan enrolled early to get head start.*
5	**David Harvey**, WR, 5-11, 160 *Touted Pennsylvanian productive wideout.*

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@PENN STATE	
S. 9	@N.C. STATE	
S. 16	**@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN**	**17-31**
S. 23	North Texas	
S. 30	@KENT STATE	35-3
O. 7	@CINCINNATI	
O. 21	Miami (OH)	23-51
O. 28	@TOLEDO	
N. 4	Bowling Green	24-14
N. 9	Buffalo	13-7
N. 16	@OHIO	27-3
N. 24	Western Michigan	

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Zips play five of their first six games on the road, so they can't afford to lose this one to the up-and-coming Chippewas and fall behind early in the East Division race.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

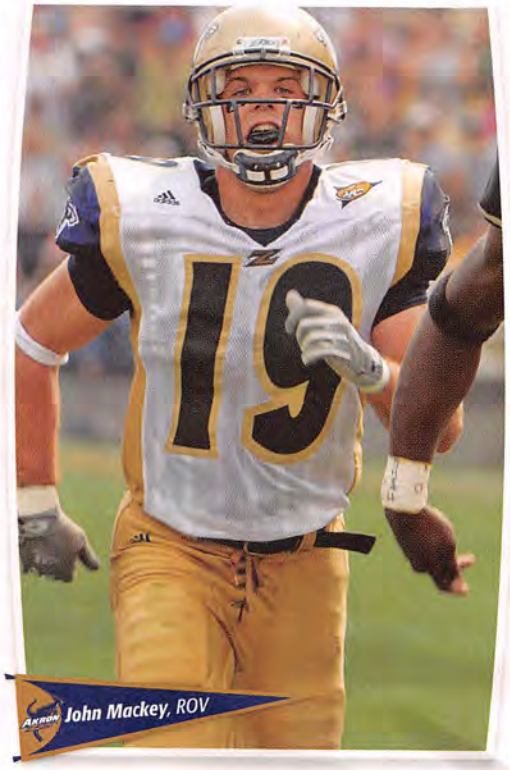
OFFENSE		
QB	16	Luke Getsy (6-2, 220, Sr.)
FB	33	Joe McDaniel (5-11, 220, So.)
RB	3	Dennis Kennedy (5-11, 209, So.)
LT	72	Tim Crouch (6-3, 300, Sr.)
LG	73	Mike Donaldson (6-5, 295, Sr.)
C	63	Andy Wills (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RG	57	Andy Alleman (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	74	Chris Kemme (6-6, 290, So.)
TE	84	Kris Kasparek (6-6, 260, Jr.)
WR	12	Jabari Arthur (6-4, 224, Jr.)
WR	17	Brandon Williams (6-1, 180, So.)
DEFENSE		
DT	93	Eric Lively (6-2, 270, So.)
NG	97	Kiki Gonzalez (6-2, 300, Sr.)
DE	99	Jermaine Reid (6-4, 275, Sr.)
BAN	30	Kevin Grant (6-2, 245, So.)
LB	43	Brion Stokes (5-11, 220, Jr.)
LB	44	Bryan Howe (6-0, 242, Jr.)
ROV	19	John Mackey (5-10, 213, Jr.)
CB	20	Reggie Corner (5-9, 175, Sr.)
CB	5	Davanzo Tate (5-10, 185, Jr.)
FS	24	Chris Brown (5-9, 200, Jr.)
SS	10	Chevin Pace (5-10, 185, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Matt Domonkos (5-8, 171, Jr.)
P	16	Andy Hildreth (6-0, 185, Jr.)

Akron will look to converted quarterback Jabari Arthur, who caught eight passes for 180 yards in last year's Motor City Bowl loss to Memphis, and sophomore Brandon Williams.

On defense, the Zips also return eight starters, including four experienced defensive backs who helped the team rank second in the MAC in pass defense (only allowing 180.8 yards per game). The secondary is led by rover John Mackey, Akron's top returning tackler (95), and three experienced cornerbacks in seniors Reggie Corner and Dionte Henry and junior Davanzo Tate.

The defensive line is anchored by 300-pound nose guard Kiki Gonzalez, a second-team All-MAC pick last season, and senior defensive end Jermaine Reid, who ranked seventh in the league in sacks (7.0).

The Zips will need to replace leading tackler Jay Rohr at linebacker, but All-MAC performer Brion Stokes and honorable-mention Freshman All-American Kevin Grant are two key returnees at this position.


John Mackey, ROV

TOP TO BOTTOM: MICHAEL HICKEY / ICON SMI; SANDRA DUKES / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HELMET COURTESY SCHEUERER.COM, ORDER AT WWW.SCHEUERER.COM

OXFORD, OHIO

MIAMI REDHAWKS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, **5-3 MAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	7
2004	▲8
2003	■▲13
2002	7
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Second-year Coach Shane Montgomery faces a rebuilding project this season.

No, it has nothing to do with any struggles of last season. The RedHawks had a perfectly respectable 7-4 record and tied for the East Division title.

The rebuilding is the result of losing a whopping 23 lettermen to graduation, including eight All-MAC picks and nine starters on defense.

It all begins at quarterback, where junior Mike Kokal—the only QB on the roster with game experience, with 11 pass attempts last season—will be challenged by redshirt freshman Daniel Raudabaugh and sophomore Jared Elliott.

The offensive line is also in a state of flux after the graduation of three starters. Right tackle Charlie Norden is a three-year starter, while left guard Steve Meister is the other returning lineman with starting experience.

The other skill positions have a good combination of talent and experience. At tailback, Brandon Murphy broke the 1,000-yard barrier to earn second-team All-MAC honors last fall, and Ryne Robinson, who averaged more than 100 receiving yards per game a year ago, leads the wide receivers corps.

But no position needs to be rebuilt as much as the linebacker unit does, where five of the six members were lost. Senior Dontae Wright is the only returnee at a position where freshmen may need to step forward immediately.

The youth of the RedHawk linebackers will also put pressure on the defensive line, anchored by defensive end Craig Mester, and a defensive backfield led by All-MAC second-team performer Joey Card.

The RedHawks do have one unique weapon: one of the best punt returners in NCAA history in Robinson. He needs 261 punt return yards to break the Division I-A career record and has also returned six punts for touchdowns.

Head coach: Shane Montgomery, 2nd year (7-4)
Career record: 7-4
Stadium: Yager Stadium
Capacity: 24,286
Official athletic Web site: www.muredhawks.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Northwestern	
S. 9	@PURDUE	
S. 16	Kent State	27-10
S. 23	@SYRACUSE	
S. 30	@CINCINNATI	44-16
O. 7	Northern Illinois	27-38
O. 14	@BUFFALO	54-13
O. 21	@AKRON	51-23
O. 28	Ball State	
N. 4	@WESTERN MICH.	
N. 15	@ BOWLING GREEN	14-42
N. 24	Ohio	38-7

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the RedHawks can post wins over Northern Illinois and Akron, this nationally televised game probably will determine the East Division winner.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/23

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Mike Kokal (6-2, 192, Jr.)
TB	24	Brandon Murphy (5-8, 189, Jr.)
LT	68	Dave DiFranco (6-6, 323, So.)
LG	72	Steve Meister (6-2, 293, Jr.)
C	53	Steve Kosky (6-4, 273, Sr.)
RG	50	Matt McKeown (6-4, 275, So.)
RT	76	Charlie Norden (6-6, 314, Jr.)
TE	80	Tom Crabtree (6-5, 224, So.)
WR	2	Ryne Robinson (5-10, 169, Sr.)
WR	4	Josh Williams (6-2, 222, Sr.)
WR	81	Patrick O'Bryan (6-1, 200, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	51	Joe Coniglio (6-2, 233, So.)
LT	69	Otto Linwood (6-1, 306, Jr.)
RT	92	Seth Painter (6-2, 254, Sr.)
RE	58	Craig Mester (6-5, 243, Jr.)
OLB	37	Dontae Wright (6-3, 222, Sr.)
MLB	48	Joe Hudson (6-2, 226, So.)
OLB	9	Clayton Mullins (6-2, 219, Jr.)
CB	16	Bryan Roland (5-10, 191, So.)
CB	5	Frank Wiwo (6-3, 179, Sr.)
SS	6	Robbie Wilson (6-0, 209, So.)
FS	1	Joey Card (6-0, 198, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	95	N. Parseghian (6-2, 185, So.)
P	4	J. Richardson (6-1, 187, So.)

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, **5-3 MAC**

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	▲9
2003	▲11
2002	9
2001	8

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

In recent years, the Falcons have shown the ability to replace one star player with another. For example, when record-setting quarterback Josh Harris graduated, Omar Jacobs replaced him and the Bowling Green offense never skipped a beat.

But this season the Falcons will be challenged to replace all of their top performers who were lost to graduation or early draft entry. Among the shoes to be filled on offense are those of Jacobs, a two-time All-MAC pick; receivers Charles Sharon and Steve Sanders, who combined to catch 58 touchdown passes in their careers; running backs P.J. Pope and B.J. Lane, a pair of three-year performers; and All-MAC offensive tackle Rob Warren.

Whew.

Coach Gregg Brandon does have some options, though. Quarterback Anthony Turner gained experience at the position when Jacobs was injured for part of last season, while redshirt freshmen Freddie Barnes and Tony Hunter also will challenge for playing time.

Corey Partridge, Marques Parks and Ruben Ruiz all have started at wide receiver and redshirt junior Dan Macon has waited patiently in the wings to get a chance at tailback.

And the offensive line is experienced and talented, with right guard Derrick Markray and center Kory Lichtensteiger leading the way.

The defense must replace six starters, but it's more important that it makes large improvements after surrendering 44 points or more four times last season.

Defensive end Devon Parks is entering his fourth season as a starter, while defensive tackle Brad Williams is a two-year regular. They'll lead the defensive front. The Falcons will be especially young at linebacker, placing pressure on fifth-year senior Terrel White.

The defensive backfield will be led by free safety Deaudre Perry and honorable-mention Freshman All-American Antonio Smith, who started all 11 games as a true freshman a year ago.

Speaking of freshmen stepping forward, Bowling Green may use true freshmen to handle its placekicking (Sean Ellis) and punting (Alonso Rojas).

Head coach: Gregg Brandon, 4th year (26-11)
Career record: 26-11
Stadium: Perry Stadium
Capacity: 23,724
Official athletic Web site: www.bgsufalcons.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Wisconsin*	42-56
S. 9	Buffalo	27-7
S. 16	@FLA. INTER.	
S. 23	Kent State	24-14
S. 30	@OHIO	38-14
O. 7	@OHIO STATE	
O. 14	Eastern Michigan	
O. 19	@CENTRAL MICH.	
O. 28	@TEMPLE	70-7
N. 4	@AKRON	14-24
N. 15	Miami (OH)	42-14
N. 21	@ TOLEDO	41-44 (OT)

* at Cleveland

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This annual grudge match may decide one division winner–or both.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/18

OFFENSE		
QB	17	Anthony Turner (6-2, 226, r-So.)
TB	5	Dan Macon (6-1, 210, r-Jr.)
LT	71	Drew Nystrom (6-5, 304, r-Jr.)
LG	68	John Lanning (6-4, 285, 5-Sr.)
C	78	Kory Lichtensteiger (6-3, 305, r-Jr.)
RG	70	Derrick Markray (6-5, 350, Sr.)
RT	73	Kevin Huelsman (6-5, 284, r-Jr.)
TE	88	Sean O'Drobinak (6-4, 262, r-Jr.)
WR	80	Ruben Ruiz (6-4, 247, Sr.)
WR	3	Marques Parks (5-11, 194, r-So.)
WR	1	Corey Partridge (5-11, 187, r-So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	99	Diyral Briggs (6-4, 216, r-So.)
NG	59	Nick Davis (6-3, 280, r-So.)
DT	92	Brad Williams (6-3, 256, Sr.)
DE	57	Devon Parks (6-3, 252, Sr.)
SAM	30	Erique Dozier (6-1, 198, r-So.)
MKE	45	Cody Basler (6-3, 225, r-Fr.)
WIL	48	Terrel White (5-10, 224, Sr.)
CB	2	Antonio Smith (5-10, 175, So.)
CB	16	Kenny Lewis (5-11, 185, So.)
FS	24	Deaudre Perry (6-1, 214, r-Jr.)
SS	9	Loren Hargrove (5-11, 204, r-Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK		Sean Ellis (6-6, 189, Fr.)
P		Alonso Rojas (6-3, 200, Fr.)

ATHENS

PRESEASON RANK: #4

OHIO BOBCATS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-3 MAC**

The first eight games of Frank Solich's first season in Athens went well, with the Bobcats upsetting Pittsburgh and posting a 3-2 mark in MAC play.

And then there were the last three games, in which injuries put a damper on those early season successes. Consecutive losses to Toledo, Akron and Miami—the final two coming by a points margin of 65-10—put an exclamation point on Ohio's need to increase its depth.

There are other questions, to be sure. One is at quarterback, where incumbent Austen Everson is being pushed by Illinois transfer Brad Bower and Brandon Jones, who saw action as a true freshman.

Uncertainty also surrounds who will be catching the passes thrown by the winner of that quarterback derby. Will it be speedy Scott Mayle and Justin Fitzgerald, the team's top receivers last season? Or will it be a newcomer such as freshman Chris Garrett or junior-college transfer Chido Nwokocha?

And who will do the blocking after the graduation of two starters on the line? Senior Matt Coppage, a team captain last year, will be expected to anchor a group that had six players start at least once last season.

Some questions, such as who will be featured at tailback in the Bobcats' run-dominated offense, already have been answered. Last year, Kalvin McRae averaged 104.8 yards per game, running for more than 200 yards three times and earning all-league honors.

There also aren't many questions on defense thanks to the return of nine starters, including all three starting linebackers. All-MAC middle linebacker Matt Muncy leads a group whose depth has been bolstered by the move of Michael Brown, Chris Hall and Lee Renfro from the defensive backfield.

Ohio still has plenty of capable secondary players, including cornerback T.J. Wright and safeties Todd Koenig and Tony Ward.

Head coach: Frank Solich, 2nd year (4-7)
Career record: 62-26

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	Tennessee-Martin
S. 9	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS
S. 16	@RUTGERS
S. 23	@MISSOURI
S. 30	Bowling Green
O. 7	Western Michigan
O. 14	@ILLINOIS
O. 21	Buffalo
O. 28	@KENT STATE
N. 4	@E. MICHIGAN
N. 16	Akron
N. 24	@MIAMI (OH)

Stadium: Peden Stadium
Capacity: 24,000
Official athletic Web site: www.ohiobobcats.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Bobcats want to push for an East Division title, they'll have to start strong in their MAC opener against the favorite to win the West.

BUFFALO

PRESEASON RANK: #5

BUFFALO BULLS

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, **1-7 MAC**

One of the most woebegone teams in Division I-A football is now under the direction of one of the most successful players in college football history.

Coach Turner Gill quarterbacked Nebraska to a national championship appearance in the early 1980s, then was an assistant coach (1992-2004) when the Cornhuskers won national titles in 1994, '95 and '97.

By now Gill probably has figured out he's not in Lincoln anymore.

The Bulls won only once last season and have a 7-49 record in MAC games since entering the league in 1999. They have victories in just 10 of the 69 football games they've played since entering the league.

Last season Buffalo ranked last in the MAC in scoring offense (10.0 points per game) and total offense (279.5 yards per game), but does have eight returning starters.

At quarterback, the choices include Drew Willy, who started eight games as a true freshman last year, and senior Stewart Sampsel, who started the team's first three games before suffering a season-ending broken collarbone.

There are plenty of options at wide receiver. Brett Hamlin led the Bulls with 38 catches as a true freshman and Evan Wallace and Terrance Breaux also have experience.

Buffalo also has alternatives in the backfield, where the returnees include seniors Steven King and Jared Patterson, and 270-pound sophomore fullback Philip Warren, who saw action at tailback as a freshman.

The biggest question Gill must answer is who will start on both sides of the line. The Bulls lost three offensive linemen, as well as all four starters on the defensive line.

Seniors Ramon Guzman and Jeff Bublavi will anchor the defense at linebacker, while three experienced defensive backs return in sophomore Gerald Jackson and juniors Jesse Imes and Kareem Byrom, who had a team-leading 85 tackles last season.

Head coach: Turner Gill, 1st year

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	Temple
S. 9	@BOWLING GREEN
S. 16	@N. ILLINOIS
S. 23	@AUBURN
O. 7	Ball State
O. 14	Miami (OH)
O. 21	@OHIO
O. 28	@BOSTON COLLEGE
N. 4	Kent State
N. 9	@AKRON
N. 18	@WISCONSIN
N. 24	Central Michigan

Stadium: University of Buffalo Stadium
Capacity: 29,013
Official athletic Web site: www.buffalobulls.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

If the Bulls don't beat the Owls, an 0-4 start is probable since road losses at Bowling Green, Northern Illinois and Auburn await.

KENT, OHIO

PRESEASON RANK: #6

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

2005 Record: 1-10 overall, **0-8 MAC**

After winning their last four games in 2004, the Golden Flashes returned to form last season. Kent State was winless in the MAC and lost its final nine games in a row in a season marred by injuries.

As a result, the Flashes gave last year's freshman class a chance to play right away, as 14 true freshmen saw action, the second-highest number to play for a team in Division I-A football last year.

There still are questions on both sides of the ball. On offense the biggest is at running back, where the top returnee, sophomore Jerry Flowers, ran for just 304 yards last season. Expect Michigan State transfer Tony Howard and redshirt freshman Eugene Jarvis to earn the starting spot before the season begins.

The rest of the offense features a great deal of experience. Michael Machen returns at quarterback and will throw to a veteran group of receivers that includes Najah Pruden, Marcus Hill, Cameron Bobb and Brian Bell.

Kent State's offensive line is also experienced, returning four starters from a year ago. Injuries at the position the last couple of years have given youngsters such as 6-7, 315-pound left tackle Augustus Parrish the repetitions to build depth there.

The biggest question on defense is at linebacker, where two starters were lost to graduation. Another starter as a true freshman, Stevon Moss, is expected to man the middle.

Kent State's deepest area is the defensive backfield, where four returning starters are joined by Andre Kirkland, who returns to safety after playing linebacker last fall. The Flashes have a pair of experienced cornerbacks in Usama Young and Jack Williams.

Second-team All-MAC performer Daniel Muir leads the defensive line, along with fellow senior Bruce Rice.

Head coach: Doug Martin, 3rd year (6-16)
Career record: 6-16

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	Minnesota
S. 9	@ARMY
S. 16	@MIAMI (OH)
S. 23	@BOWLING GREEN
S. 30	Akron
O. 7	@TEMPLE
O. 14	Toledo
O. 28	Ohio
N. 4	@BUFFALO
N. 11	@VIRGINIA TECH
N. 18	Eastern Michigan
N. 24	@BALL STATE

Stadium: Dix Stadium
Capacity: 29,287
Official athletic Web site: www.kentstatesports.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

For the first time in school history, the Golden Flashes will host a Big Ten school when the Golden Gophers, led by former Kent State Coach Glen Mason, invade Dix Stadium.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

5-YEAR WINS TREND

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Stadium: Huskie Stadium (28,000)

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★

2005 Record:	MAC:
7-5	6-2

Hungry like Wolfe, Huskies should have lots to howl about this season

Is this the year the Huskies finally reach the summit?

Last year, Northern Illinois saw a victory snatched from its hands in the final 10 seconds of the MAC Championship Game, continuing a spooky string of near misses for the program. For example, NIU had to win the West Division outright just to reach the championship game for the first time last season, after tying for the MAC West crown in 2001, '02 and '04.

Of course, when you remember that Coach Joe Novak won only one of his first 21 games and was 3-30 in his first three years at DeKalb, you realize that Novak and the Huskies know a little something about patience.

There are holes to be filled this year, to be certain. On offense, the big question is an offensive line that lost three starters. Senior tackle Doug Free, a two-time All-MAC pick, gives Northern Illinois a foundation upon which to build.

There's also a question at quarterback, but there are two good answers in Phil Horvath, who threw for more than 2,000 yards before a season-ending broken arm, and Dan Nicholson, his replacement, who guided the Huskies to three critical late-season wins.

But who will catch the passes that are thrown? Tight end Jake Nordin is a solid option, while wide receivers Britt Davis and Jarret Carter show promise.

There's no question who will handle the bulk of the rushing attempts: Garrett Wolfe, who is the nation's top returning running back after averaging 175.6 yards per game a year ago.

The defense also has questions, but returns plenty of answers in seven returning starters spread evenly over the field. The deepest position is in the defensive backfield, where twins Adriel and Alvah Hansbro return at cornerback and Dustin Utschig is back at free safety.

The Huskies' linebackers will be young, but senior Keenan Blalark (95 tackles) returns to help lead sophomores Tim McCarthy and Phil Brown. Redshirt freshman David Bryant will also join them.

On the line, nine lettermen return, led by ends Ken West and Larry English.

Keenan Blalark, LB

Garrett Wolfe, TB

(L TO R): MARK COWAN, AMIR GARCIA / ICON SMI; REUNET GOURNET COURTESY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@OHIO STATE	
S. 9	Ohio	
S. 16	Buffalo	
S. 23	Indiana State	
S. 30	@BALL STATE	17-31
O. 7	@MIAMI (OH)	38-27
O. 14	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	42-7
O. 21	Temple	
O. 28	@IOWA	
N. 7	Toledo	35-17
N. 17	Central Michigan	31-28
N. 24	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	24-8

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Last season the Huskies lost at Michigan and Northwestern, but don't scoff at NIU's chances here. In 2003 they beat Alabama–in Tuscaloosa.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/18

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Phil Horvath (6-3, 197, Sr.)
TB	1	Garrett Wolfe (5-7, 173, Sr.)
LT	62	Doug Free (6-7, 302, Sr.)
LG	70	Chris Acevedo (6-5, 304, Jr.)
C	50	Eddie Adamski (6-2, 265, Fr.)
RG	61	Matt Rogers (6-4, 277, Sr.)
RT	60	Jon Brost (6-6, 296, So.)
TE	86	Jake Nordin (6-3, 258, Jr.)
SE	14	Jarret Carter (6-3, 200, Sr.)
FL	7	Britt Davis (6-2, 195, So.)
WR	2	Matt Simon (6-2, 195, So.)
DEFENSE		
LE	34	Ken West (6-1, 238, Sr.)
NT	92	Adam Schroeder (6-5, 273, Jr.)
DT	63	Zack Holycross (6-7, 284, Jr.)
RE	51	Larry English (6-3, 236, So.)
SLB	33	Keenan Blalark (5-10, 228, Sr.)
MLB	53	Tim McCarthy (6-0, 226, So.)
WLB	38	David Bryant (5-10, 193, r-Fr.)
CB	11	Alvah Hansbro (5-10, 170, Sr.)
CB	12	Adriel Hansbro (5-10, 176, Sr.)
SS	8	Mark Reiter (6-1, 191, Jr.)
FS	35	Dustin Utschig (5-10, 189, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	25	Chris Nendick (5-11, 168, Jr.)
P	45	Andy Dittbenner (6-1, 192, So.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Head coach: Joe Novak, 11th year (54-60)
Career record: 54-60
Assistant coaches: Sam Pittman (off. line/asst. head coach) John Bond (off. coord./QBs), Greg Bower (TEs), Carnelius Cruz (WRs), Thomas Hammock (RBs), Denny Doornbos (def. coord./LBs), Jeff Phelps (def. line), John Hauser (secondary), Mike Sabock (recruiting coord.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Ricky Crider**, RB, 5-9, 185 *Fills need for quality tailback.*
2	**Billy Lowe**, QB, 6-3, 214 *Southpaw led Florida team to 15-0 record.*
3	**Jason Onyebuagu**, OL, 6-2, 305 *Indiana all-stater arrives from a top-notch program.*
4	**Panan Tense**, OL, 6-4, 315 *Massive blocker with tons of potential.*
5	**Mike Krause**, C, 6-3, 270 *Wisconsin all-state choice should contribute early.*

TOLEDO, OHIO

TOLEDO ROCKETS

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲9
2004	■▲9
2003	8
2002	▲9
2001	■▲10

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Tom Amstutz, 6th year (45-18)
Career record: 45-18
Stadium: Glass Bowl
Capacity: 26,248
Official athletic Web site: www.utrockets.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	@IOWA STATE	
S. 9	@W. MICHIGAN	56-23
S. 15	Kansas	
S. 23	McNeese State	
S. 30	@PITTSBURGH	
O. 7	Central Michigan	17-21
O. 14	@KENT STATE	
O. 21	@E. MICHIGAN	30-3
O. 28	Akron	
N. 7	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17-35
N. 14	Ball State	34-14
N. 21	Bowling Green	44-41 (OT)

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

It's highly probable the MAC West Champ—and the best team in the league—will be determined by this game.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/12

OFFENSE		
QB	11	Clint Cochran (6-3, 205, So.)
RB	33	Jalen Parmele (6-0, 222, Jr.)
LT	79	John Greco (6-5, 318, Jr.)
LG	64	David Perkins (6-2, 308, Jr.)
C	70	Hassan Adebesin (6-0, 300, Sr.)
RG	69	Jesse Anderson (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RT	63	Jerry Aguwa (6-4, 295, Sr.)
TE	91	Chris Hopkins (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WR	80	Steve Odom (5-10, 170, Sr.)
WR	82	Nick Moore (6-4, 192, So.)
WR	5	Trumaine Smith (6-4, 211, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	92	Sean Williamson (6-2, 265, Jr.)
DT	96	J.P. Bekasiak (6-6, 296, Sr.)
DT	87	Patrick Clark (6-4, 266, Jr.)
OLB	44	Mike Alston (6-2, 212, Sr.)
ILB	54	Keith Forestal (6-3, 215, So.)
ILB	47	Steven Morrison (6-2, 220, Jr.)
OLB	15	M. Chamberlain (6-2, 208, Sr.)
CB	21	Nigel Morris (6-0, 181, Jr.)
CB	36	Keiron Brown (5-11, 176, So.)
SS	34	Lester Richmond (6-1, 184, Fr.)
FS	28	Tyrrell Herbert (6-2, 190, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	14	Mike Krispinsky (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P	41	Brett Kern (6-3, 195, Jr.)

2005 Record: 9-3 overall, **6-2 MAC**
(beat UTEP in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)

For the first time in three seasons, the Rockets will need to find a quarterback after Bruce Gradkowski left for the NFL.

If Toledo can find a capable replacement for him, there is plenty of elements left to earn the program its 13th straight winning season.

Eight starters return on offense, including first-team All-MAC tackle John Greco and two other members of last year's offensive line.

The receiving corps also returns virtually intact, led by Steve Odom, Andrew Hawkins, Nick Moore and all-league tight end Chris Hopkins.

And while top running back Trinity Dawson graduated, the Rockets still have plenty of options here. Burly Scooter McDougle returns after redshirting, while Jalen Parmele has two years experience and Ray Williams, a former Ohio Mr. Football, is expected to be eligible.

That means there is enough talent to lessen the pressure that will surround Gradkowski's replacement at quarterback, which probably will be backup sophomore Clint Cochran. He will face challenges, though, coming from redshirt freshman Brandon Summers and sophomore John Goolsby.

On defense, the Rockets welcome back seven starters, including all six members on the defensive line who saw playing time.

While two starters were lost in the linebacker corps, first-team All-MAC pick Mike Alston returns after earning the GMAC Bowl's Defensive MVP award.

The defensive backfield also has holes, but juniors Nigel Morris and Tyrrell Herbert are solid blocks which to build upon.

Perhaps the most important returnee here is Defensive Coordinator Tim Rose, who coached the Rockets to the MAC's top spot in both total defense (only allowing 316.8 yards per game) and scoring defense (21.8 points per game) in his first year at Toledo after the unit had floundered in previous seasons.

MT. PLEASANT

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

PRESEASON RANK:

#3

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	4
2003	3
2002	4
2001	3

■ *CONFERENCE TITLE* ▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Brian Kelly, 3rd year (10-12)
Career record: 10-12
Stadium: Kelly/Shorts Stadium
Capacity: 30,199
Official athletic Web site: www.cmuchippewas.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	Boston College	
S. 9	@MICHIGAN	
S. 16	Akron	31-17
S. 23	@E. MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)
S. 30	@KENTUCKY	
O. 7	@TOLEDO	21-17
O. 14	Ball State	31-24 (OT)
O. 19	Bowling Green	
N. 4	@TEMPLE	
N. 10	Western Michigan	24-31
N. 17	@N. ILLINOIS	28-31
N. 24	@BUFFALO	

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

Chippewa fans won't have to wait long to see if their team is bowl-worthy, as the nationally televised home opener is against the 2005 MPC Computers Bowl champ.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/19

OFFENSE		
QB	18	Brian Brunner (6-2, 236, So.)
RB	34	Ontario Sneed (5-11, 203, So.)
LT	73	Joe Staley (6-5, 299, Sr.)
LG	60	Adam Benke (6-5, 314, So.)
C	78	Drew Mormino (6-4, 301, Sr.)
RG	69	Eric Tunney (6-3, 290, Jr.)
RT	74	Andrew Hartline (6-5, 285, So.)
TE	83	Andre Moore (6-2, 221, So.)
WR	88	Obed Cétoute (6-4, 212, Jr.)
WR	2	Jemmy Jasmin (5-8, 162, Jr.)
WR	3	Damien Linson (5-11, 184, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	93	Daniel Bazuin (6-3, 269, Sr.)
DT	94	Steven Friend (6-2, 284, Jr.)
NG	92	Ronnie Ekdahl (6-2, 291, So.)
DE	58	De'Onte Burnam (6-0, 253, Jr.)
DLB	6	Isaac Brown (5-11, 204, Sr.)
LB	41	Thomas Keith (5-11, 239, Jr.)
LB	46	Doug Kress (6-1, 240, Sr.)
CB	7	Pacino Horne (5-11, 191, Sr.)
CB	36	Terrance Robinson (5-6, 181, Sr.)
SS	22	Aaron Carr (6-1, 184, Fr.)
FS	10	Curtis Cutts (6-0, 210, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	28	Rick Albreski (6-0, 151, So.)
P	35	Tony Mikulec (5-8, 214, Jr.)

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, **5-3 MAC**

Coach Brian Kelly's program grew in fits and starts last season.

The Chippewas posted wins over Miami, Akron and Toledo, then gave a scare to Northern Illinois in early November. But Central Michigan also lost to Eastern Michigan and wasn't able to complete its comeback against the Huskies at home.

Will Central Michigan take another step forward this season under Kelly, who developed the championship Division II program at Grand Valley State?

To do so, the Chippewas will need to replace four starters on each side of the ball. On offense, the biggest question is at quarterback, where Brian Brunner is ahead of redshirt freshman Dan LeFevour.

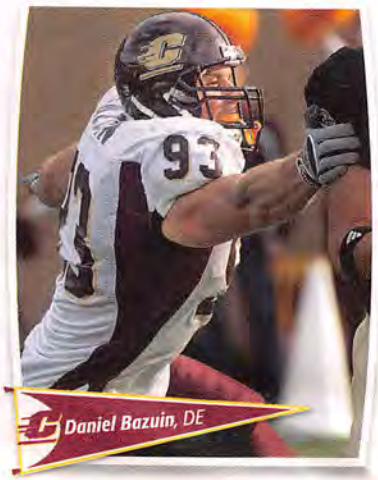
There's a good mix of experience and depth at the other offensive positions. Ontario Sneed and Anthony Boykins give the Chips a 1-2 punch at tailback, while Damien Linson and Obed Cetoute are experienced wideouts.

The offensive line also returns four starters, led by seniors Joe Staley and Drew Mormino.

On defense, last year's leaders all return. The biggest name is defensive end Daniel Bazuin, the 2005 MAC Defensive Player of the Year who led Division I-A football in tackles for loss with 26.5.

The Chippewas also are strong at linebacker with the return of two all-league performers in Thomas Keith and Isaac Brown.

Both the line and linebackers will need to be strong to support a young defensive backfield, which may include some true freshmen—12 defensive backs were signed as part of the Chippewas' 26-man recruiting class.



(L TO R): KEVIN C. COX / WIRE IMAGE.COM; MARK BIALEK / KALAMAZOO GAZETTE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; HFI MFTS COURTESY SONDERCORP.COM; CORBIS IT WWW.CORBIS.COM

KALAMAZOO

PRESEASON RANK: #4

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

2005 Record: 7-4 overall, **5-3 MAC**

Last year the Broncos rebounded from a 1-10 season in 2004 to finish 7-4, including a 5-3 record in MAC play. That turnaround was the largest about-face in league history.

This year the real work begins.

Western Michigan suffered key losses on offense, including a pair of NFL draft picks in wide receiver Greg Jennings and tight end Tony Scheffler, 1,000-yard rusher Trovon Riley and lineman Mark Ottney.

But the most interesting question is who will quarterback the Broncos. The presumption is that the job belongs to Ryan Cubit, who started the first three games before suffering a season-ending injury.

His primary competition comes from sophomore Tim Hiller, who stepped in for Cubit and performed so well he was named 2005 MAC Freshman of the Year.

Possible receiving targets include Joe Chapple at wide receiver and tight end Brandon Ledbetter, while Mark Bonds is the leader to take over for Riley at tailback, but will be pushed by Kirk Elsworth.

The offensive line also has plenty of returnees, led by senior Dominic Moran and center Robbie Krutilla.

Meanwhile the defense returns both quantity and quality, with nine returning starters and 12 of the team's top 13 tacklers coming back. On the line the top returnees are tackle Nick Varcadipane, a Freshman All-American last season, and ends Anthony Belmonte and Matt Ludeman.

At linebacker, the Broncos feature a pair of standouts in Ameer Ismail, an All-MAC choice last season, and Paul Tithof, a leader who was injured much of last season.

The defensive backfield includes last year's leading tackler, Antwain Allen, and All-MAC performer Louis Delmas.

Head coach: Bill Cubit, 2nd year (7-4)
Career record: 41-22-1

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	@INDIANA
S. 9	Toledo
S. 16	@VIRGINIA
S. 23	Temple
O. 7	@OHIO
O. 14	Northern Illinois
O. 21	@BALL STATE
O. 28	Eastern Michigan
N. 4	Miami (OH)
N. 10	@C. MICHIGAN
N. 18	@FLORIDA STATE
N. 24	@AKRON

Stadium: Waldo Stadium
Capacity: 30,200
Official athletic Web site: www.wmubroncos.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

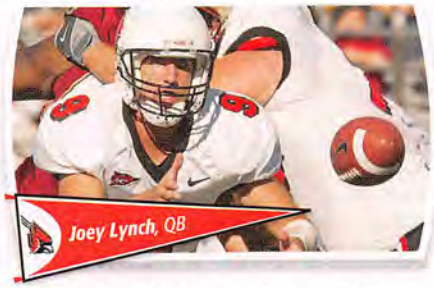
The home opener will give the Broncos a quick gauge on where they stand in comparison to one of the West's top teams.

MUNCIE, IND.

PRESEASON RANK: #5

BALL STATE CARDINALS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **4-4 MAC**



Will the Ball State team that takes the field in 2006 resemble the 2005 squad that lost six of its first seven games last year and was outscored 326-129, with 60 of its points coming in a five-overtime game?

Or will it more closely remind fans of the Cardinals who finished the season 3-1, beating division champions Northern Illinois and Akron along the way?

The answer to that question largely rests in the hands of 15 returning starters, including 10 on offense.

Ball State has experience at quarterback in fifth-year senior Joey Lynch, who will throw to returning wideouts Louis Johnson and Terry Moss, as well as tight end Michael Steinhaus. And all five starters return on an offensive line led by three-year letterman Justin Schneider.

The only starter lost was leading rusher Charles Wynn. But the Cardinals have depth at this position, too, thanks to the return of B.J. Hill and Larry Bostic.

Only five starters are back on defense, but three of those returnees are at linebacker. Bryant Haines and Brad Seiss finished one-two on the team in tackles last season and are joined by Wendell Brown.

Strong safety Erik Keys will anchor the defensive backfield, while nose tackle William Wise is the only starter on the defensive line.

The Cardinals also have a weapon on special teams in punter Chris Miller, who was named first-team All-MAC as a freshman last season after averaging almost 42.9 yards per punt.

Head coach: Brady Hoke, 4th year (10-24)
Career record: 10-24

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	Eastern Michigan
S. 9	Indiana
S. 16	@PURDUE
S. 23	North Dakota State
S. 30	Northern Illinois
O. 7	@BUFFALO
O. 14	@C. MICHIGAN
O. 21	Western Michigan
O. 28	@MIAMI (OH)
N. 4	@MICHIGAN
N. 14	@TOLEDO
N. 24	Kent State

Stadium: Ball State Stadium
Capacity: 22,500
Official athletic Web site: www.ballstatesports.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cardinals open with a league game they must win if they hope to push for a division title. The fact that four of their first five games are at home adds to the urgency of this contest.

YPSILANTI

PRESEASON RANK: #6

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-5 MAC**

Yes ... yes ... the Eagles finished at the bottom of the MAC's West Division last season. But that finish should come with an asterisk: EMU's 3-5 record included a pair of one-point losses and would have been good for fourth in the East.

There are standouts at several positions that may help Eastern Michigan move up in the standings—and several questions that may hold the Eagles back.

One of those questions is at quarterback, where Tyler Jones is the favorite to replace the graduated Matt Bohnet. Jones will be challenged by redshirt freshmen Andy Schmitt and Dontayo Gage.

Another question is at tailback, where the options include senior Pierre Walker, who received a medical redshirt last season, and two runners who saw action as true freshmen in Dwayne Harrison and Tim Conner.

The receiving corps also has depth with 2004 All-MAC performer Eric Deslauriers, Travis Lewis and Trumaine Riley, who also is a threat on special teams.

The defense will feature experience both on the line and at linebacker. All-MAC selection Kevin Howe will anchor the line, as will defensive tackles Jason Jones and Josh Hunt.

Middle linebacker Daniel Holtzclaw earned Freshman All-America honors last season thanks to five interceptions and 91 tackles and is flanked by fellow starters Michael Richardson and Darren Matthews.

The question mark on defense is in the secondary, where three starters were lost to graduation. The lone returnee is Duan Bracey, who is capable of playing any of the four defensive back spots.

The Eagles also have a special-teams weapon in placekicker Andrew Wellock, a finalist for the Lou Groza Award in 2004. The senior converted 18 of 25 field-goal attempts last year, with a long of 52 yards.

Head coach: Jeff Genyk, 3rd year (8-14)
Career record: 8-14

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	@BALL STATE
S. 9	@MICHIGAN STATE
S. 16	@NORTHWESTERN
S. 23	Central Michigan
S. 30	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
O. 14	@BOWLING GREEN
O. 21	Toledo
O. 28	@W. MICHIGAN
N. 4	Ohio
N. 11	Navy
N. 18	@KENT STATE
N. 24	Northern Illinois

Stadium: Rynearson Stadium
Capacity: 30,200
Official athletic Web site: www.emueagles.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Eagles will play five of their first six games on the road, so getting a home win over their in-state rivals will have extra significance.

GAIL OSKIN / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HELMETS COURTESY SOUNDERS.COM; UNIFORM INFORMATION

RATING THE PLAYERS:

Fastest receiver	**Johnny Quinn**, North Texas	*Most elusive RB*	**Jamario Thomas**, North Texas	*Top NFL prospect*	**Keyonvis Bouie**, LB, FIU
Best hands	**Chandler Williams**, WR, FIU	*Best instincts*	**Keyonvis Bouie**, LB, FIU	*Top impact freshman*	**Cornelius Williams**, WR, Troy
Best passing QB	**Josh Padrick**, FIU	*Best athlete*	**Johnny Quinn**, WR, North Texas	*Hardest hitter*	**Tyrell Johnson**, S, Arkansas State
Best running QB	**Michael Desormeaux**, Louisiana-Lafayette	*Best under pressure*	**Jerry Babb**, QB, Louisiana-Lafayette	*Biggest underachiever*	**Clint Marks**, QB, Middle Tennessee

Predicted order of finish:

1. Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns — p. 137 STOCK: UP
2. Troy Trojans — p. 137 STOCK: UP
3. FIU — p. 138 STOCK: UP
4. MT — p. 138 STOCK: UP
5. UNT — p. 138 STOCK: DOWN
6. ULM — p. 139 STOCK: DOWN
7. ASU Indians — p. 139 STOCK: DOWN
8. FAU — p. 139 STOCK: UP

Stability is the new watchword in the Sun Belt, but this league needs a big non-conference win

By **TOMMY HICKS**, *Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register*

There's something new in the Sun Belt Conference: stability. Still in its infancy as a Division I-A football conference, the league has changed its membership roster in revolving-door fashion. But the 2006 season features the same eight-team lineup as the 2005 campaign.

That doesn't mean the Sun Belt has answered all of its questions. There is still a lot of work to do in that area. The league still needs one of its teams—actually more than one, but it would be a start—to produce a win over a high-profile opponent. There have a handful of victories over teams from more prominent conferences, but not the head-shaking, attention-grabbing victory that would attract attention to that team and give the Sun Belt a much-needed boost. There have been plenty of chances in the past. The schedules of Sun Belt teams feature many games against such opponents—almost exclusively on the road and usually for the type of guaranteed money that is of great importance to that school's athletic budget—and there are more opportunities this season.

Most Sun Belt teams picked up another big-name opponent with the extra regular-season game allowed this season. Among those high-profile opponents are defending national champion Texas, Texas A&M, Alabama, Auburn, South Carolina, Clemson, Miami, Oklahoma, Florida State, LSU, Arkansas and Louisville.

North Texas' 25-game winning streak in league games was halted last season, as was the Mean Green's string of Sun Belt crowns. The end—it had won the first four league titles—came rather rudely, with North Texas finishing 2-5 in conference games a year ago despite having the nation's top rushers the previous two seasons (Patrick Cobbs in 2003 and Jamario Thomas in 2004) in the same backfield.

In fact, the league was split into three groups. Arkansas State, Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe all finished with 5-2 Sun Belt records, with Florida International, Troy and Middle Tennessee bunched together at 3-4, and Florida Atlantic joining North Texas at 2-5. This season could offer the same type of finish, with at least half the league expected to have a legitimate opportunity to claim the crown.

The addition of FIU and FAU has forced the remaining teams in the Sun Belt to improve their recruiting and opened up a gateway to the talent-rich state of Florida.

STREET & SMITH'S ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
QB	Josh Padrick, Sr., FIU	DL	Frank Lloyd, Sr., Troy
RB	Jamario Thomas, Jr., North Texas	DL	Jeremiah Chapman, Jr., North Texas
RB	Tyrell Fenroy, So., Louisiana-Lafayette	DL	Anthony Hills, Sr., Louisiana-Lafayette
WR	Johnny Quinn, Sr., North Texas	LB	Devrett Wade, Sr., Arkansas State
WR	Chandler Williams, Sr., FIU	LB	Andre Clark, So., FAU
TE	Samuel Smith, Sr., FIU	LB	Keyonvis Bouie, Sr., FIU
OL	Brandon Cox, Sr., Louisiana-Lafayette	LB	Phillip Graves, Sr., North Texas
OL	Jesse Newman, Jr., Louisiana-Lafayette	DB	Bradley Robinson, Jr., Mid. Tennessee
OL	Dylan Lineberry, Sr., North Texas	DB	Chaz Williams, Jr., Louisiana-Monroe
OL	Tanner Jenkins, Sr., Arkansas State	DB	Kevin Payne, Sr., Louisiana-Monroe
OL	Germayle Franklin, Sr., Mid. Tennessee	DB	Aaron Weathers, Jr., North Texas
PK	Greg Whibbs, Jr., Troy	P	Colby Smith, Sr., Middle Tennessee

5 THINGS TO WATCH:

1. **Will a Sun Belt team manage to produce a quality win against a big-time team?** League teams are playing several high-profile schools, including Texas, Alabama, Louisville, Auburn, LSU, Florida State, Oklahoma, Clemson, Texas A&M and Miami. The Sun Belt still needs an attention-grabbing victory.
2. **What role, if any, will the use of instant replay have in the league?** Only two Sun Belt teams (North Texas, Lafayette) tinkered with instant replay last season, and only on a very limited basis. This season, instant replay will be used by every team in every game.
3. **How quickly will FIU and FAU become contenders in the league?** Perhaps this season. Both schools enjoy the benefits of being located in a state with one of the deepest talent pools in the country.
4. **Will North Texas falter again or find its way back into league contention?** Jamario Thomas won't have to share time with Patrick Cobbs this season, and that might help, but the Mean Green's fall from the only team to win a Sun Belt title to a 2-5 league mark was dramatic.
5. **Can new Coach Rick Stockstill turn things around at Middle Tennessee?** Since 2001, the Blue Raiders have gone 13-15. Troubles meeting the new academic standards established by the NCAA led Middle to sign just 14 players in its recent recruiting class.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP:

1. **TROY**: The Trojans used juco transfers to fill immediate needs, but signed a solid class that includes QB Omar Haugabook and WR Cornelius Williams.
2. **FLORIDA ATLANTIC**: Quarterback Eli Cranor of Russellville, Ark., leads a good group. Only two signees aren't from Florida.
3. **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL**: Coach Don Strock had several vacancies to fill and did so, leaning toward linemen and running backs.
4. **LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE**: Junior-college OLs Damian Jones and Hildebrando Ramos will be counted on to help soon.
5. **LOUISIANA MONROE**: Late signee Demetrice Ogletree, a running back from Forsyth, Ga., is a find.
6. **ARKANSAS STATE**: The Indians continued a string of good signing classes, adding Memphis-area DBs Marquette Williams and Marlon Douglas.
7. **NORTH TEXAS**: The hard times continue for the Mean Green, though it did snag four transfers (three jucos) for quick help.
8. **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**: The NCAA's new academic standards led to a loss of scholarships and Middle signed just 14 players.

LAFAYETTE

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
RAGIN' CAJUNS

2005 Record: 6-5 overall, **5-2 Sun Belt**

PRESEASON RANK:

#1

Based on its finish to the 2005 season—winning its final five games after a 1-5 start—Lafayette heads into the 2006 season as the hottest team in the Sun Belt. It is expected to have quite a carryover. The Ragin' Cajuns had the best scoring offense, best rushing offense and best total offense in the league, while also leading the Sun Belt in red-zone offense, first downs, time of possession and third-down conversions.

Armed with Jerry Babb and Michael Desormeaux at quarterback, Tyrell Fenroy at running back and linemen Jesse Newman and Brandon Cox—all of whom return this year—the Ragin' Cajuns are expected to make things tough for opponents again.

Defensively, Lafayette was no pushover, finishing third in the league in total defense and sacks, with end Anthony Hills and linebackers Mark Risher and Brenton Burkhalter leading the way. They'll be back this year, too.

The stage is set for Lafayette to make a strong run at the Sun Belt title. Last season, it finished in a three-way tie with Arkansas State and Louisiana-Monroe with a 5-2 Sun Belt record. Arkansas State was the last team to beat the Cajuns (39-36 on the road).

In Lafayette's defense, there's a lot more going for this team than carryover. Coach Rickey Bustle has shown improvement in each of the four previous seasons at the helm, and the roster has grown deeper and more talented each year. This team can score and score often and it has developed a chemistry that is capable of making stops when most needed on defense.

At quarterback, Babb and Desormeaux provide a nice contrast in styles that keeps opposing teams off-balance.

Babb, the most accurate passer in school history, connected on 62.2 percent of his throws last season for three touchdowns and 859 yards and was intercepted just three times.

Desormeaux chipped in a 5.6 yards-per-carry average and passed for another 597 yards (53 percent).

As a freshman, Fenroy led the league's best rushing attack by collecting 1,053 yards, 5.9 yards a carry and 12 touchdowns. Those numbers earned him Freshman-of-the-Year honors in the Sun Belt and set a school record for rushing yards in a season.

On defense, the top four tacklers return.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	6
2004	4
2003	4
2002	3
2001	3

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Rickey Bustle, 5th year (17-29)
Career record: 17-29
Stadium: Cajun Field
Capacity: 31,000
Official athletic Web site: www.ragincajuns.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@LSU	
S. 9	@TEXAS A&M	
S. 16	McNeese State	
S. 30	Eastern Michigan	10-31
O. 7	@HOUSTON	
O. 18	@FLA. ATLANTIC	10-28
O. 28	Middle Tennessee	13-10
N. 4	@ TROY	31-28 (OT)
N. 11	North Texas	31-28
N. 18	@FLA. INTERNATIONAL	28-7
N. 25	Arkansas State	36-39
D. 2	Louisiana-Monroe	54-21

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cajuns will have played two league games at this time, but this is the first of five straight against tough Sun Belt foes and the Trojans figure to be in the title hunt too.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

OFFENSE		
QB	15	Jerry Babb (6-3, 218, Sr.)
RB	25	Chester Johnson (5-10, 205, Sr.)
RB	32	Tyrell Fenroy (5-10, 185, So.)
LT	67	Jesse Newman (6-4, 305, Jr.)
LG	74	Tim Falter (6-4, 310, So.)
C	58	Junior Ramos (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG	56	Will Chance (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RT	72	Brandon Cox (6-7, 330, Sr.)
TE	88	Erik Jones (6-4, 235, So.)
WR	18	Derrick Smith (6-1, 185, So.)
WR	5	Jason Chery (5-11 180, So.)
DEFENSE		
DE	91	Anthony Hills (6-4, 240, Sr.)
DE	90	Rodney Hardeway (6-3, 230, Jr.)
DT	94	Korey Raymond (6-4, 290, Jr.)
DT	65	Marshall Delesdernier (6-0, 276, Sr.)
LB	4	Mark Risher (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LB	43	Brenton Burkhalter (6-0, 230, So.)
LB	52	Tré Green (5-11, 215, Sr.)
LCB	26	Kyle Ward (6-2, 188, Jr.)
RCB	2	Michael Adams (5-8, 170, Sr.)
SS	23	Johnny Felders (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	8	Lamar Morgan (6-2, 210, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	48	Drew Edmiston (6-4, 195, So.)
P	17	Brit Framel (6-1, 185, So.)

TROY, ALA.

TROY
TROJANS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-4 Sun Belt**

PRESEASON RANK:

#2

The Trojans' second try at winning the Sun Belt crown wasn't as strong as expected last season, sending them back to the drawing board. And Coach Larry Blakeney, who has never been afraid of change, hired some new coaches to help him devise a way to get Troy back in the hunt for the conference crown.

Tony Franklin, who learned the passing-game offense from the likes of New Mexico State's Hal Mumme and Texas Tech's Mike Leach, is bringing that line of thinking to Troy as its new offensive coordinator.

This is an offense that needed change, finishing sixth in the eight-team league in scoring offense (15.9 ppg), pass offense (166.9 ypg) and rushing offense (118.2) and seventh in total offense (285.1). It also was dead last in red-zone scoring.

Junior-college transfer quarterback Omar Haugabook had no problems grasping Franklin's offense in the spring and looked impressive. The Trojans will line up with no less than four receivers this season. It's quite a different approach for a team that has leaned heavily on its running game in the past.

The Trojans will need a lot of receivers and heading that list is former QB Gary Banks, who played well in the spring.

When Troy does run the football, look for Kenny Cattouse, Anthony Jones, Sean Dawkins, Jarrod Coaxum and Xavier Walker to handle the chore. Cattouse will also be used as an H-back.

The Trojans' defense has plenty of vacancies to fill. On the line, fans have heard a lot about end Kenny Mainor and the coaching staff hopes he'll live up to his expectations this year. The secondary will be led by Sherrod Martin, but shoulder surgery in the spring may slow his return.

The schedule may be Troy's biggest obstacle. After opening the season at home against Alabama State, the Trojans play four straight demanding road games—Florida State, Georgia Tech, Nebraska and UAB—before opening Sun Belt play.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	▲7
2003	6
2002	4
2001	7

■ CONFERENCE TITLE ▲ BOWL ✷ NATIONAL TITLE

Head coach: Larry Blakeney, 16th year (119-60-1)
Career record: 119-60-1
Stadium: Movie Gallery Stadium
Capacity: 30,000
Official athletic Web site: www.troytrojans.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	Alabama State	
S. 9	@FLORIDA STATE	
S. 16	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 23	@NEBRASKA	
S. 30	@UAB	7-27
O. 14	Louisiana-Monroe	3-27
O. 28	North Texas	13-10
N. 4	Louisiana-Lafayette	28-31 (OT)
N. 11	@FLA. ATLANTIC	28-14
N. 18	Arkansas State	3-9
N. 25	@MID. TENNESSEE	7-17
D. 2	@FLA. INTERNATIONAL	18-13

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After four straight road games against tough teams, this will be the Trojans' first league tilt, and they need a good start.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 52/12

OFFENSE		
QB	16	Omar Haugabook (6-2, 220, Jr.)
HB	22	Kenny Cattouse (5-10, 207, Jr.)
LT	79	Rob Austin (6-5, 267, Sr.)
LG	65	Chris Jamison (6-3, 285, So.)
C	63	Zach Yenser (6-1, 280, Sr.)
RG	71	Kirbie Bodiford (6-4, 287, Sr.)
RT	68	Will Chambliss (6-6, 292, So.)
WR	5	Smokey Hampton (6-1, 175, Sr.)
WR	80	Josh Allen (5-11, 192, Jr.)
WR	17	Gary Banks (6-1, 196, Jr.)
WR	4	Toris Rutledge (6-2, 199, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	58	Shawn Todd (6-3, 245, Jr.)
NT	74	Franklin Lloyd (6-0, 283, Sr.)
DT	92	Steve McLendon (6-4, 280, Jr.)
BAN	51	Kenny Mainor (6-4, 216, Sr.)
SLB	26	Marcus Richardson (6-3, 214, Jr.)
MLB	56	Joe Baker (6-0, 210, r-Fr.)
WLB	39	Josh Maxwell (6-0, 204, Jr.)
LCB	34	Leodis McKelvin (5-11, 187, Jr.)
RCB	32	Henry Chubb (5-11, 185, So.)
SS	28	Brandon Condren (6-1, 205, Sr.)
FS	6	Sherrod Martin (6-1, 187, Jr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	40	Greg Whibbs (5-10, 166, Jr.)
P	49	Jason Wright (6-0, 217, Sr.)

MATT SLOCUM / AP; TROY MEDIA RELATIONS

MIAMI

PRESEASON RANK: #3

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
GOLDEN PANTHERS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **3-4 Sun Belt**

Granted, the school is located in arguably the top recruiting area in the country. But for an upstart program to be picked this high in a preseason poll—and place several players on the preseason all-conference team—suggests program-builder and Coach Don Strock, the former Miami Dolphins quarterback, has done well in a short time.

Last season, the Panthers were 5-6 overall and 3-4 in the league, joining established programs Troy and Middle Tennessee in the middle of the Sun Belt pack. This season, the Panthers are better.

The talent is in place on both sides of the football for FIU to make a legitimate run at the crown. But in order for that to happen, the Panthers have to develop some confidence and momentum with a schedule that spreads out its non-conference games (including trips to South Florida, Miami, Maryland and Alabama). FIU has a chance to refocus its league efforts if needed during the year. Although it plays Miami and Alabama back-to-back on the schedule, there is an off-week in between that will allow the Panthers a breather.

With players such as quarterback Josh Padrick, receiver Chandler Williams, linebacker Keyonvis Bouie, defensive end Antwan Barnes and the most talented tight ends in the league, the Panthers have one of the league's most skilled rosters.

And again, Florida International will look to some incoming players (23) to provide immediate leadership and experience.

But can they put everything together and hold it together for an entire season? That's the question facing the Division I-A newcomer. Strock has refused to cut corners, building the program patiently instead of looking for quick-fix answers. The fruits of his labor may show this season.

Head coach: Don Strock, 5th year (15-29)
Career record: 15-29

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	@ MIDDLE TENNESSEE
S. 9	@SOUTH FLORIDA
S. 16	Bowling Green
S. 23	@MARYLAND
S. 30	Arkansas State
O. 7	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 14	@MIAMI (FL)
O. 28	@ALABAMA
N. 4	Louisiana-Monroe
N. 18	Louisiana-Lafayette
N. 25	@FLA. ATLANTIC*
D. 2	Troy

Stadium: Florida International University Stadium
Capacity: 17,000
Official athletic Web site: www.fiusports.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

Sure, it's the first game, which means there are 11 more, but it's a league game and FIU is a team that needs a good start to after winning four of its final five contests last season.

** at Miami*

MURFREESBORO

PRESEASON RANK: #4

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
BLUE RAIDERS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall, **3-4 Sun Belt**

If Rick Stockstill was looking for a challenge, he has found it in his new gig as coach of the Blue Raiders. The former Clemson, East Carolina and South Carolina assistant has moved into the top office in Murfreesboro and has plenty of work to do.

On the heels of last season's 4-7 overall record and 3-4 mark in the conference, Andy McCollum was fired and Stockstill, who was coaching tight ends and coordinating recruiting efforts for Steve Spurrier at South Carolina, takes over a program that has underachieved in recent seasons. His first MTSU team will feature eight returning starters on offense, including four on the line, but a defense with just four starters back, with five of the seven positions missing up front.

Quarterback Clint Marks is the leader on offense. An accurate southpaw passer, he ranks No. 3 on the school's all-time passing list. Marks will get help from the returning starter at running back, Eugene Gross, who picked up 724 rushing yards last year.

Last season, Middle Tennessee was second in the league in total defense and scoring defense, but many of the players who helped gain that status—especially Sun Belt Defensive Player-of-the-Year Jeff Littlejohn—are gone. That leaves new Defensive Coordinator Manny Diaz with the task of finding the right players to fill the voids.

The secondary, where Damon Nickson and Jonathan Harris return at the safety spots, features the unit's most experience.

Senior Colby Smith returns as the team's punter and placekicker.

The schedule will be tough again, including visits to Oklahoma, Maryland and South Carolina, with Louisville paying a visit to Murfreesboro on Oct. 6. Between Oklahoma and Louisville on the schedule is an important game against North Texas.

Head coach: Rick Stockstill, 1st year

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A. 31	Florida International
S. 9	@MARYLAND
S. 14	Tennessee Tech
S. 23	@OKLAHOMA
S. 30	@NORTH TEXAS
O. 6	Louisville
O. 21	@LA.-MONROE
O. 28	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
N. 4	Florida Atlantic
N. 11	@ARKANSAS ST.
N. 18	@SOUTH CAROLINA
N. 25	Troy

Stadium: Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium
Capacity: 30,788
Official athletic Web site: www.goblueraiders.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The game will be an indication of what the new coaching staff has accomplished against an opponent expected to be a factor in the league. With Maryland, Oklahoma and Louisville among the following five opponents, the Blue Raiders need a good start.

DENTON

PRESEASON RANK: #5

NORTH TEXAS
MEAN GREEN

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **2-5 Sun Belt**

Not only did the Mean Green's 26-game winning streak against conference opponents come to an end last season, but so did its reign as the top team in the Sun Belt and its grip on the league's automatic berth in the New Orleans Bowl.

But that wasn't the most difficult part of the 2005 campaign for North Texas. The Mean Green went winless at home for only the third time in school history, losing its final six games en route to a 2-9 record.

That's quite a reversal of fortune for a progam that built a reputation as the team to beat in the conference.

There have been changes on the coaching staff, but Darrell Dickey remains in charge. Jamario Thomas, the nation's leading rusher as a freshman in 2004, is back without the nation's leading rusher in 2003, Patrick Cobbs. Receiver Johnny Quinn is back too, as is defensive back Aaron Weathers, offensive lineman Dylan Lineberry and rover Phillip Graves.

In other words, there is still plenty of talent on the North Texas roster. So was last season a fluke or did it signal a change in the Mean Green's fate and standing in the Sun Belt?

North Texas was close to having a more successful season a year ago. It lost its five Sun Belt games by a combined 21 points, three of them by three points each. Thomas led the league in rushing for the second time, but the Mean Green lost three of its games because it was unable to finish, holding a second-half lead in three of the games it lost. Optimism exists this year because 17 of the team's 24 starters are back.

But the defense must show improvement if North Texas is to return to its winning ways, after allowing the third-most rushing yards (220.9) per game in school history. And the Mean Green's opener against national champ Texas will be a true test.

Head coach: Darrell Dickey, 9th year (39-55)
Career record: 39-55

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	@TEXAS
S. 9	Southern Methodist
S. 16	@TULSA
S. 23	@AKRON
S. 30	Middle Tennessee
O. 7	Fla. International
O. 21	@ARKANSAS STATE
O. 28	@TROY
N. 4	Louisiana Tech
N. 11	@LA.-LAFAYETTE
N. 18	Florida Atlantic
N. 25	@LA.-MONROE

Stadium: Fouts Field
Capacity: 30,500
Official athletic Web site: www.meangreensports.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Mean Green, after playing its four non-conference games, needs to begin the Sun Belt season off on a successful note, making this a key point in the schedule.

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MONROE

PRESEASON RANK: #6

LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

2005 Record: 5-6 overall, **5-2 Sun Belt**

There is something new about this year's Monroe team—its nickname. The NCAA, looking to eliminate many of the Indian nicknames across the country, informed Monroe it must come up with a new one.

The choice: Warhawks.

The Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks will take to the field for the first time on Sept. 2 against Alcorn State and follow with road games at Kansas and Alabama. Two other road games against SEC teams (Arkansas and Kentucky) pop up on the schedule later in the year as the Warhawks look for another name by which opposing schools will know them: Sun Belt title contenders.

Making that possibility difficult is the fact Monroe's offense will be without do-everything quarterback Steven Jyles, the league's Player of the Year last season. All he did was lead the league in total offense and place sixth in scoring. Seven starters return on offense, but none will have the impact on this year's team that Jyles had in leading Monroe to a 5-2 league mark (tied for the best record with Arkansas State and Lafayette) and a 5-6 overall record. Leadership will be a key intangible to measuring the success of this year's team.

Monroe has also made a switch to a 4-2-5 defensive alignment. How the Warhawks adjust to the change—and their opponents, too—could be a factor in the team's success as well. It's just as important as finding the right player to direct the offense.

Shreveport's Kinsmon Lancaster appears to be the heir to the starting-quarterback spot. He played in 10 games last season.

Calvin Dawson is expected to be the top running back, but he missed spring drills while recovering from surgery. Marty Humphrey caught 20 passes for 269 yards last year and will be called upon to increase those numbers this year.

The secondary features perhaps the defense's top two players in Chaz Williams and Kevin Payne.

Head coach: Charlie Weatherbie, 4th year (11-23)
Career record: 56-87

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	Alcorn State
S. 9	@KANSAS
S. 16	@ALABAMA
S. 30	Florida Atlantic
O. 7	@ ARKANSAS STATE
O. 14	@TROY
O. 21	Middle Tenn.
O. 28	@ARKANSAS*
N. 4	@FLA. INTERNATIONAL
N. 18	@KENTUCKY
N. 25	North Texas
D. 2	@LA.-LAFAYETTE

Stadium: Malone Stadium
Capacity: 30,427
Official athletic Web site: www.ulmathletics.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Warhawks beat the Indians a year ago and repeating the trick would bode well for a team that needs to make a quick move in league games.

** at Little Rock*

JONESBORO

PRESEASON RANK: #7

ARKANSAS STATE INDIANS

2005 Record: 6-6 overall, **5-2 Sun Belt**
(lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-19)

Now comes the tricky part for the Indians—following up a successful, title-sharing season that found them playing in a bowl game for the first time since 1987. In order to put together another successful season, the Indians will have to do so without the benefit of their top three rushers, their leading passer and five offensive starters from a year ago.

Nine starters are back on defense, along with linebacker Josh Williams, who had more tackles than any freshman in the country in 2004 but was booted off the team for the 2005 season by Coach Steve Roberts. Williams paid his own way to school last year and walked on for spring drills, picking up where he left off with his play on the field.

Some believe the success of last year's team will help push this year's Indians early in the season. But while the team was 6-6 for the year, including a 9-3 win over Troy and a 31-19 loss to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, there was a lack of consistency. It only won back-to-back games just once (against Lafayette and Florida Atlantic) and finished the year losing three of its final five games.

Gone are running backs Antonio Warren and Shermar Bracey, who combined for 1,765 rushing yards and 11 rushing TDs in 2005.

The top player back on offense is wideout Levi Dejohnette, who was the Indians' leading receiver a year ago, catching 43 passes for 554 yards and one touchdown. The offensive line is led by three-year starter Tanner Jenkins at center.

The defense is anchored by last year's leading tackler, defensive back Tyrell Johnson, who made 112 stops and collected two interceptions.

The schedule presents a challenge. The Indians open with Army, Oklahoma State and SMU before playing Florida International on the road. Memphis and Auburn fill the other non-conference spots.

Head coach: Steve Roberts, 5th year (20-28)
Career record: 69-61-1

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	Army
S. 9	Oklahoma St.*
S. 23	@SMU
S. 30	@ FLA. INTERNATIONAL
O. 7	Louisiana-Monroe
O. 14	@MEMPHIS
O. 21	North Texas
O. 28	@FLA. ATLANTIC
N. 4	@AUBURN
N. 11	Middle Tenn.
N. 18	@TROY
N. 25	@LA.-LAFAYETTE

Stadium: Indian Stadium
Capacity: 30,406
Official athletic Web site: www.asuindians.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Indians are expected to start a bit slowly because of their inexperience on offense, but by this game, their first Sun Belt tilt, they better be ready to play or face the prospect of a long season.

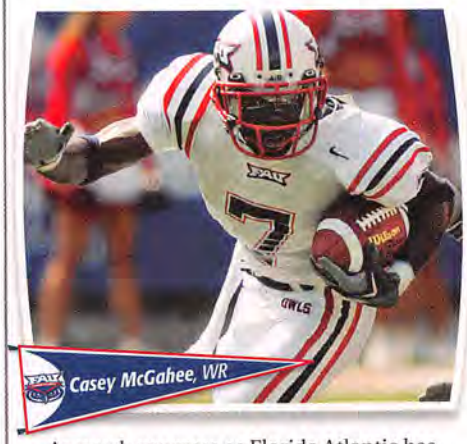
** at Little Rock*

BOCA RATON

PRESEASON RANK: #8

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

2005 Record: 2-9 overall, **2-5 Sun Belt**



As much progress as Florida Atlantic has made in a short time, it is still a program in its infancy—though it sometimes doesn't act that way.

Take the Owls' 2006 schedule, for example.

They are a young bunch who will open the season at Clemson, followed by road games at Kansas State, Oklahoma State, South Carolina and Louisiana-Monroe. That's a difficult schedule, regardless of a team's roster and its time in Division I-A football. But it is especially tough for a program such as FAU that posted a 9-3 record in 2004 but fell hard to 2-9 last season. It is made even more difficult when the starting quarterback and two top receivers from last year's team have departed.

Not only is the team green and missing key players, but it has to settle on a starting quarterback. Opinions vary on the player who has the inside track to the No. 1 job heading into fall—junior Sean Clayton or sophomore McKinson Souverain.

At running back, the top candidates are Dilvory Edgecomb and Charles Pierre, who had a combined 145 carries for 517 yards last year. Casey McGahee had 269 receiving yards in 2005 and is the top returning wideout.

The defense collected only six sacks in '05.

Head coach: Howard Schnellenberger, 6th year (28-30)
Career record: 128-105-3

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S. 2	@CLEMSON
S. 9	@KANSAS STATE
S. 16	@OKLAHOMA ST.
S. 23	@SOUTH CAROLINA
S. 30	@ LOUISIANA MONROE
O. 18	Louisiana-Lafayette
O. 28	Arkansas State
N. 4	@MIDDLE TENN.
N. 11	Troy
N. 18	@NORTH TEXAS
N. 25	Fla. International*

Stadium: Lockhart Stadium
Capacity: 20,450
Official athletic Web site: www.fausports.com

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

After its killer start against tough opponents, FAU will play its fifth straight game on the road here, but its first against a Sun Belt foe.

** at Miami*

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

The magic is back in South Bend as mighty Quinn directs a Weis offense that should roll up plenty of points

By **AL LESAR**
South Bend (Ind.) Tribune

Signs of an Irish revival are everywhere.

Notre Dame's return to college football's elite appears to be imminent. The foundation is solid, with dynamic second-year Coach Charlie Weis as the cornerstone. Dues have been paid through a 9-3 season that ended in an eye-opening Bowl Championship Series loss to Ohio State.

And the future is bright.

There's a buzz around the program that followed Lou Holtz out of town. A crowd of more than 41,000 for the spring Blue-Gold Game in April testifies.

Mentioning the Heisman Trophy and a Notre Dame player in the same breath hasn't been possible since Raghib "Rocket" Ismail worked his magic. But quarterback Brady Quinn will give the school a reason to crank up the hype machine.

Getting back to the BCS was a major hurdle. Finding the talent to be competitive on that level is the next step.

Speaking of talent, the early verbal commitment offered by Jimmy Clausen, considered to be the best quarterback in the upcoming recruiting class, shows the Irish can battle for and land the elite talent.

Now, all they have to do is go out and win.

Key victories over Michigan and Tennessee last season, two perennial powers that struggled in '05, were pivotal in the Irish success. A last-second loss to Southern Cal was the most bitter setback.

Pittsburgh, Tennessee and BYU are being replaced on this year's 12-game schedule by Georgia Tech, Penn State, UCLA, North Carolina and Army, giving the Irish their share of quality opponents.

Offensively, everything will start with Quinn. He has managed to stay healthy for three seasons—a significant achievement for any quarterback—and has flourished under the mentorship and system used by Weis.

Quinn rewrote the Irish record books after last season, when he completed 292 of 450 passes for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdowns. He was a third-team All-America selection and finished fourth in last year's Heisman Trophy voting. If Quinn remains healthy, there's a strong chance he'll be in New York City this December at least as a finalist.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1	**Samuel Young**, OL, 6-7, 292 *Massive Florida prep blocks out sun.*
2	**James Aldridge**, RB, 6-1, 215 *In-state prospect should help offense.*
3	**Demetrius Jones**, QB/ATH, 6-4, 202 *Irish have to find his best position.*
4	**Matt Carufel**, OL, 6-5, 288 *Top Minnesota prep recruit eyes early time.*
5	**Konrad Reuland**, TE, 6-6, 239 *Best TE in West could play early.*

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	★★★★★
DEFENSE	★★★★
SPECIAL TEAMS	★★★
COACHING	★★★★★

2005 Record:
9-3
(lost to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, 34-20)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@GEORGIA TECH	
S. 9	Penn State	
S. 16	Michigan	17-10
S. 23	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-44 (OT)
S. 30	Purdue	49-28
O. 7	Stanford	38-31
O. 21	UCLA	
O. 28	@NAVY*	42-21
N. 4	North Carolina	
N. 11	@AIR FORCE	
N. 18	Army	
N. 25	@ USC	31-34

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

While games with Penn State and Michigan will be critical, it's a safe bet that some big-time success will be in the balance for both teams at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum.

* *at Baltimore*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/23

OFFENSE		
QB	10	Brady Quinn (6-4, 231, Sr.)
FB	44	Asaph Schwapp (6-0, 250, So.)
TB	3	Darius Walker (5-10, 208, Jr.)
LT	68	Ryan Harris (6-5, 288, Sr.)
LG	50	Dan Santucci (6-4, 290, Sr.)
C	78	John Sullivan (6-4, 298, Sr.)
RG	76	Bob Morton (6-4, 292, Sr.)
RT	79	Brian Mattes (6-6, 285, Sr.)
TE	89	John Carlson (6-6, 254, Sr.)
WR	5	Rhema McKnight (6-2, 207, Sr.)
WR	83	Jeff Samardzija (6-5, 216, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	95	Victor Abiamiri (6-4, 260, Sr.)
LT	98	Trevor Laws (6-1, 293, Sr.)
RT	66	Derek Landri (6-3, 263, Sr.)
RE	94	Ronald Talley (6-4, 261, Jr.)
LB	48	Steve Quinn (6-2, 215, So.)
LB	47	Maurice Crum Jr. (6-0, 220, Jr.)
LB	40	Anthony Vernaglia (6-3, 221, Jr.)
CB	22	Ambrose Wooden (5-11, 197, Sr.)
CB	30	Michael Richardson (5-11, 193, Sr.)
FS	18	Chinedum Ndukwe (6-2, 219, Sr.)
SS	9	Tom Zbikowski (6-0, 208, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK		Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 185, Fr.)
P	17	Geoff Price (6-3, 186, Sr.)

Street & Smith's All-American

Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

▲ *BOWL* ✱ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Charlie Weis, 2nd year (9-3)
Career record: 9-3
Assistant coaches: John Latina (asst. head coach/off. line), Bill Lewis (asst. head coach/def. backs), Mike Haywood (off. coord./RBs), Rick Minter (def. coord./LBs), Rob Ianello (WRs/recruiting coord.), Jappy Oliver (def. line), Bernie Parmalee (TEs/special teams asst.), Brian Polian (head coach special teams/LBs asst.), Peter Vaas (QBs)

Weis had no problem believing his star quarterback could handle the heavy expectations of being a Heisman candidate on a team favored to compete for the BCS title this season.

"Here's my feeling," Weis says. "If he wins the Heisman Trophy, that probably means we win the national championship. So sign me up."

There's plenty of star power on the Notre Dame offense to go along with Quinn.

Wide receiver Jeff Samardzija was an All-American and finalist for the Biletnikoff Award a year ago. Also a baseball pitcher, he was expected to spend the summer playing professionally in the minors before returning for his senior campaign in football.

Samardzija was on the receiving end of Quinn's passes numerous times, as the senior wideout set a new single-season school record with 15 receiving touchdowns and tied Tom Gatewood's 1970 mark of 77 catches, also adding 1,249 yards in the process.

A knee injury against Michigan sidelined Rhema McKnight for the remainder of last season. He's back at 100 percent and will give defenses more than just Samardzija to worry about. Players such as Chase Anastasio and David Grimes could also see time at wideout.

While being overshadowed in the offensive scheme, tailback Darius Walker has quietly rolled up 1,982 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns in his first two seasons. He also set a school record last season for receptions by a running back with 43.

If the holes are there, Walker can make things happen, and has also proven to be just as productive catching balls out of the backfield. Sophomore Asaph Schwapp won the fullback job midway through last season, and will again block up front for Walker.

Replacing the right side of the offensive line will be the biggest challenge of the preseason. With John Sullivan at center, Bob Morton will likely be at right guard. Right tackle could be manned by Brian Mattes, Michael Turkovich or incoming freshman Sam Young.

Concern isn't as high on the other side, as left tackle Ryan Harris will start for his fourth straight season and senior Dan Santucci returns at left guard after starting all 12 games there last season.

The Irish need someone to step up for the departed Anthony Fasano, who had 576 receiving yards and two touchdowns last season. Heading into the fall, it looked to be a battle between seniors John Carlson and Marcus Freeman.

I-A INDEPENDENT

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Jeff Samardzija, WR

Replacing linebackers Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays is the daunting task facing Irish Defensive Coordinator Rick Minter. Anthony Vernaglia and Steve Quinn appear to be the likely candidates to step in. The lone returning starter in the linebacker unit is Maurice Crum Jr., who had back surgery in the offseason.

Safeties Tom Zbikowski, who was expected to dabble in professional boxing over the summer, and Chinedum Ndukwe will be the strength of the secondary. Zbikowski had 71 tackles and five interceptions last season and also gives the Irish an explosive threat in the punt-return game.

Those two will be joined in the secondary by returning starting cornerbacks Michael Richardson and Ambrose Wooden, who led the team in tackles last season with 74.

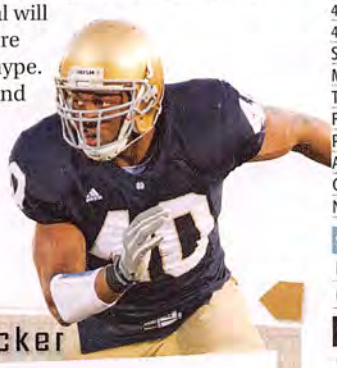
Notre Dame returns its entire defensive front, led by end Victor Abiamiri. A 6-4, 260-pound senior, Abiamiri recorded eight sacks and 15 tackles for loss in 2005. Junior Ronald Talley is also back at the other end position.

In the middle, however, is where the Irish defense will be the strongest. Seniors Derek Landri (8 tackles for loss, 3 sacks) and Trevor Laws (3, 1.5) are an experienced duo that know their way around the trenches. Landri will be entering his fifth year as a starter.

Stability will be a goal for the kicking game. The departure of kicker/punter D.J. Fitzpatrick has opened some gaping holes. Incoming freshman Ryan Burkhart may be the best bet at kicker, while Geoff Price has a leg up on the punting competition.

Thanks to so many lean years of late, the honeymoon period for Weis has been extended by Notre Dame fans. And the Irish's hopes of playing in the BCS Championship Game could come down to its final regular-season game, where they'll look to exact revenge on the Trojans in Los Angeles.

A true Irish revival will depend on how Notre Dame handles the hype. Every week Quinn and Samardzija will get national attention. How will they respond to that sort of scrutiny?



NEXT BIG THING

MAURICE CRUM JR., junior linebacker

After undergoing back surgery following the Fiesta Bowl, Notre Dame's Maurice Crum Jr. should be ready for the season opener. Where he'll exactly play remains a mystery.

Crum is the only returning starter from last season's linebacker unit, where he played at the strongside, also known as the "Apache" slot to Irish fans. But this season, the 6-0, 220-pound junior could switch to the middle or even the weakside, depending on how the battles go between the less-experienced Notre Dame linebackers.

He'll be expected to lead a group that graduated Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays, who ranked first and second, respectively, in tackles last season. Crum was fifth on the Irish in that category with 57, including 3.5 for loss.

Crum was an All-State player out of Tampa Bay Tech High in Florida, where he racked up 171 combined tackles in two years. His father, Maurice Crum Sr., was an All-America linebacker at the University of Miami, leading the team in tackles his senior season.

After seeing only scout-team time his freshman season, Crum had an impressive spring in 2005, and was immediately inserted in the starting lineup, where he remained for all of Notre Dame's 11 games. His surgery in the offseason limited his play in spring ball, although he did take reps at all three linebacker positions.

During spring practice, Notre Dame Coach Charlie Weis noted it was important to have a fully healthy Crum ready for the fall—not just for his play on the field, but also the leadership he'll provide to the new linebackers joining him.

"[With] Maurice really being our only guy who has had a lot of time as a starter in our system ... we're going to try and protect Mo as best as we possibly can," Weis says.

—Matt McKenzie

2005 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	ND	OPP
SCORING	440	294
Points Per Game	36.7	24.5
FIRST DOWNS	314	239
Rushing	126	82
Passing	169	137
Penalty	19	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1765	1588
Yards gained rushing	2079	1931
Yards lost rushing	314	343
Rushing Attempts	491	403
Average Per Rush	3.6	3.9
Average Per Game	147.1	132.3
TDs Rushing	21	17
PASSING YARDAGE	3963	3175
Att-Comp-Int	454-294-8	410-218-13
Average Per Pass	8.7	7.7
Average Per Catch	13.5	14.6
Average Per Game	330.2	264.6
TDs Passing	32	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	5728	4763
Total Plays	945	813
Average Per Play	6.1	5.9
Average Per Game	477.3	396.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	34-646	65-1379
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-396	27-174
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-223	8-103
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.0	21.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	14.1	6.4
INT RETURN AVERAGE	17.2	12.9
FUMBLES-LOST	17-6	20-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-667	71-554
Average Per Game	55.6	46.2
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1873	61-2503
Average Per Punt	39.9	41.0
Net punt average	36.1	34.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:51	27:09
3RD-DOWN CONV.	90/184	58/165
3rd-Down Pct	49%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/18	14/27
4th-Down Pct	50%	52%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-216	21-135
MISC YARDS	0	4
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	58	37
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	12-18	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	54-57	32-33
ATTENDANCE	484770	370858
Games/Avg Per Game	6/80795	5/74172
Neutral Site Games		1/76196

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Notre Dame	87	145	78	127	3	440
Opponents	75	47	69	97	6	294

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brady Quinn

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	158.40	450-292-7	64.9	3919	32	326.6

David Wolke

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	45.07	3-1-1	33.3	28	0	4.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darius Walker	12	253	1196	4.7	9	99.7
Travis Thomas	12	63	248	3.9	5	20.7
R. Powers-Neal	5	31	100	3.2	6	20.0

RECEIVING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeff Samardzija	12	77	1249	16.2	15	104.1
Maurice Stovall	12	69	1149	16.7	11	95.8
A. Fasano	12	47	576	12.3	2	48.0

DEFENSE

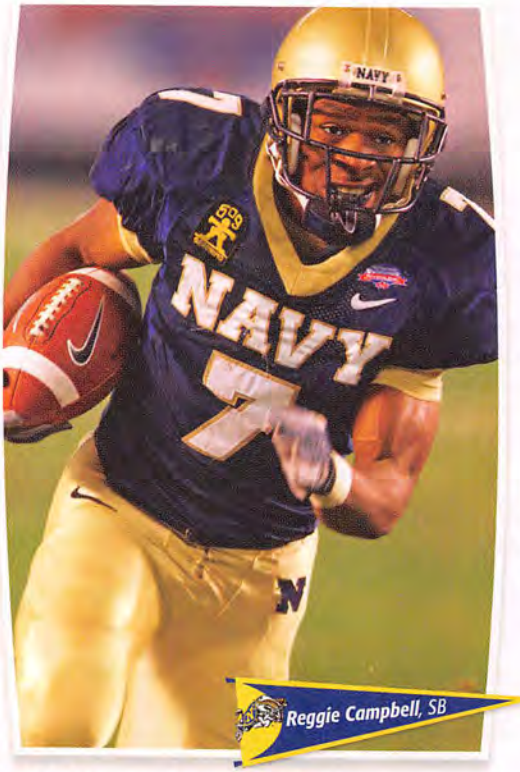
TACKLES	GP	Solo	Ast.	Total
Brandon Hoyte	12	53	39	92
Corey Mays	12	43	37	80
Ambrose Wooden	12	61	13	74

SACKS	GP	No.	Yds.
Victor Abiamiri	12	8.0	78
Brandon Hoyte	12	6.0	23
Corey Mays	12	5.0	35

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Tom Zbikowski	5	136	27.2	2
Mike Richardson	3	16	5.3	0
Ambrose Wooden	2	41	20.5	0

TOP TO BOTTOM: RICK KIMBALL; ANDY ALTENDORFER / ROOT SPORTS

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN



Reggie Campbell, SB

Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	▲ 8
2004	▲ 10
2003	▲ 8
2002	2
2001	

▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Paul Johnson, 5th year (28-21)
Career record: 90-31
Assistant coaches: Ken Niumatalolo (asst. head coach/OL), Buddy Green (def. coord./secondary), Ivin Jasper (QBs), Chris Culton (FBs), Jeff Monken (slot backs/STs coord.), Brian Bohannon (WRs), Todd Spencer (OTs), Dale Pehrson (DL), Danny O'Rourke (ILBs), Keith Jones (OLBs), Tony Grantham (OLBs), Joe Speed (secondary)

POWER RATINGS

OFFENSE	✪✪✪✪
DEFENSE	✪✪✪
SPECIAL TEAMS	✪✪✪
COACHING	✪✪✪✪✪

2005 Record:
8-4
(beat Colorado State in the Poinsettia Bowl, 51-30)

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	East Carolina	
S. 9	Massachusetts	
S. 16	@STANFORD	38-41
S. 23	Tulsa	
S. 30	@CONNECTICUT	
O. 7	@AIR FORCE	27-24
O. 14	Rutgers	21-31
O. 28	Notre Dame*	21-42
N. 4	@DUKE	28-21
N. 11	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
N. 18	Temple	38-17
D. 2	ARMY**	42-23

★ **GAME TO WATCH** ★

It would be easy to say that an upset of Notre Dame (Oct. 28 in Baltimore) could make the Midshipmen's quarter-century, but in reality there's no game bigger than Army-Navy.

** at Baltimore; ** at Philadelphia*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

OFFENSE		
QB	3	Brian Hampton (5-11, 208, Sr.)
FB	22	Adam Ballard (6-1, 223, Jr.)
SB	21	Trey Hines (5-9, 208, Sr.)
SB	7	Reggie Campbell (5-6, 165, Jr.)
LT	79	Matt Pritchett (6-2, 290, Sr.)
LG	60	Zach Gallion (6-2, 315, Sr.)
C	69	James Rossi (6-1, 269, Sr.)
RG	63	Antron Harper (5-11, 257, Jr.)
RT	75	Andrew McGinn (6-1, 247, So.)
WR	89	Tyree Barnes (6-2, 200, So.)
WR	87	Jason Tomlinson (6-1, 208, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
LE	96	Andrew Tattersall (6-4, 252, Sr.)
NG	98	Larry Cylc (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RE	95	John Chan (6-1, 249, Sr.)
OLB	40	David Mahoney (5-9, 219, Sr.)
ILB	57	Rob Caldwell (6-0, 229, Sr.)
ILB	50	Joe Cylc (5-11, 228, Sr.)
OLB	45	Tyler Tidwell (6-2, 224, Sr.)
CB	8	Jeremy McGown (5-11, 189, Sr.)
CB	4	Keenan Little (5-11, 195, Sr.)
ROV	11	Ketric Buffin (5-7, 165, So.)
FS	25	DuJuan Price (5-11, 214, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	39	Joey Bullen (5-10, 186, Jr.)
P	31	Greg Veteto (6-1, 175, Jr.)

Midshipmen have plenty of (triple) options heading into fall

Three straight Commander-in-Chief's trophies. Three consecutive bowl appearances. And a good deal of talent coming back. Navy has every reason to feel good about 2006.

Last year went a long way toward proving the attitude Coach Paul Johnson has developed in the Midshipmen during his four seasons at Annapolis. Finding success is one thing, but Navy players have been able to maintain the quality of their performances.

Just don't tell that to Johnson.

"We're starting over," Johnson says. "This team hasn't done anything. I would rather go [into a new season] with high expectations than no expectations, but that's just what they are: expectations. This team hasn't won a game."

Three-point losses to Maryland and Stanford to start the season challenged the status quo, but the Midshipmen managed to win eight of their last 10 games, including an impressive 51-30 Poinsettia Bowl victory over Colorado State.

Gone from the Navy schedule this season are Maryland, Kent State, Rice and Tulane. East Carolina, Massachussetts, Tulsa, Connecticut and Eastern Michigan are replacements in the 12-game arrangement.

If those expectations are going to be realized, Brian Hampton will have to be the guy to make them happen. The quarterback in Navy's high-octane, triple-option attack is the vital component. He makes the reads and the judgments that make or break the offense.

"I would just like to see him make good decisions," Johnson says of Hampton. "He has to be consistent. He has ability. He needs to be consistent every day and show me that he's improved enough that he is going to make good decisions that will give us a chance to win the game. He doesn't have to win the game; he just has to keep from losing it."

Hampton takes over the helm from Lamar Owens, who led the Navy offense last season to a No. 1 national ranking in rushing yards at 318.7 yards a game.

Slot back Reggie Campbell offers plenty of promise for a return to that lofty status. Campbell scored an amazing five touchdowns and collected 116 rushing yards, 89 receiving yards and 85 kickoff-return yards in the bowl win over Colorado State.

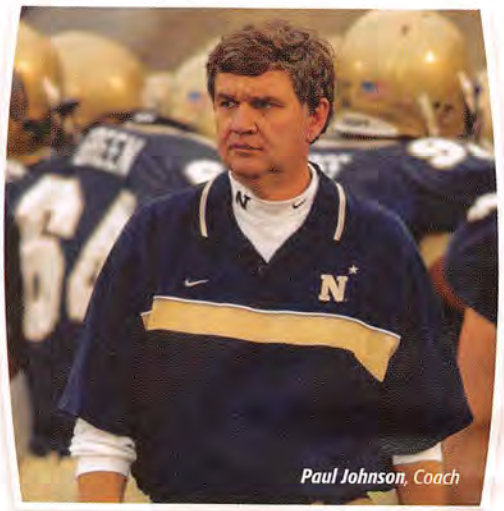
Fullback Adam Ballard and wide receiver Tyree Barnes are other assets on Navy's offense.

One of the most intriguing players will be guard Antron Harper, who at 5-11 and 257 pounds may be the smallest offensive lineman in Division I-A football.

Defensively, 11 of Navy's top 13 tacklers from last season are back.

Linebackers Rob Caldwell, David Mahoney and Tyler Tidwell are veterans. Corners Keenan Little and Jeremy McGown have experience, as do safeties DuJuan Price and Ketric Buffin and linemen Andrew Tattersall, John Chan and Larry Cylc.

Joey Bullen is back after a good year as Navy's kicker, while Greg Veteto will handle the punting.



Paul Johnson, Coach

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARK GOLDMAN / ICON SMI; KIRBY LEE / WIRE IMAGE.COM; HELMET COURTESY SCOREHERE.COM. ORDER AT WWW.SCOREHERE.COM OR CALL 800-292-4383

WEST POINT, N.Y.

ARMY CADETS

2005 Record: 4-7 overall

Since taking over as coach at Army two years ago, Bobby Ross' focus has been on establishing stability with the Black Knights' program.

Heading into the 2006 campaign, it's an objective yet to be achieved.

Four straight wins late last season, including a three-point decision over Air Force, gave hints that things might be heading in the right direction. But a 42-23 thrashing at the hands of Navy sent Army coaches back to the drawing board.

Now the Black Knights must try to enhance their offensive-recovery project while filling the voids left by four-year starters Zac Dahman (quarterback) and Carlton Jones (running back).

"We've got to be a team that sustains effort, sustains assignment and sustains technique," Ross says.

Being in every game will take some doing, given the adventurous schedule Army has lined up. The Black Knights have added teams like Notre Dame and Texas A&M to a slate that already included TCU and some other quality mid-majors.

David Pevoto, who had some cameo appearances as Dahman's understudy a year ago, has the inside track on the quarterback job. Getting comfortable with Army's option package is Pevoto's preseason assignment.

Senior Ricky Lay reported to West Point as a quarterback. He was moved to wide receiver and will now make the transition to running back, where he appears headed for the starting job. He got most of his work done on special teams a year ago.

Fullback Mike Viti has become a key part of the Army offense. A forgotten position before Ross arrived, the fullback provides the element of versatility that makes the option deceptive. Veteran linemen Pete Bier, Dan Evans, Matt Wesiner, Ray Zelenak and Jonathan Connon give Ross a comfort zone up front, a place where the offense can begin.

Six of Army's front seven on defense return, but new faces at cornerback should be reason for significant concern.

"Any team needs [confidence]," Ross says. "We need it as much as anybody. The one thing we have to overcome is that when something goes bad, we still need to maintain our poise and come together as a football team."

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	4
2004	2
2003	
2002	1
2001	3

▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Bobby Ross, 3rd year (6-16)
Career record: 100-92-2
Stadium: Michie Stadium
Capacity: 40,000
Official athletic Web site: www.goarmysports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
S. 2	@ARKANSAS STATE	38-10
S. 9	Kent State	
S. 16	@TEXAS A&M*	
S. 23	@BAYLOR	10-20
S. 30	Rice	
O. 7	Virginia Military	
O. 14	@CONNECTICUT	13-47
O. 21	TCU	17-38
O. 28	@TULANE	
N. 3	Air Force	27-24
N. 18	@NOTRE DAME	
D. 2	@NAVY**	23-42

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

The Cadets will look to break a four-game skid in this series, in which they have been outscored 176-54 by the Midshipmen.

** at San Antonio ** at Philadelphia*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

OFFENSE		
QB	14	David Pevoto (6-5, 229, Jr.)
FB	33	Mike Viti (5-10, 242, Jr.)
RB	18	Ricky Lay (6-4, 215, Sr.)
LT	77	Ray Zelenak (6-3, 262, Jr.)
LG	58	Dan Evans (6-3, 297, Sr.)
C	67	Pete Bier (6-4, 282, Sr.)
RG	70	Matt Wesiner (6-3, 289, Sr.)
RT	72	Jonathan Connon (6-6, 293, Sr.)
TE	84	Tim Dunn (6-4, 238, Sr.)
WR	2	Walter Hill (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR	5	Jeremy Trimble (6-0, 214, Jr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	95	Brandon Thompson (6-4, 265, Jr.)
DT	99	Travis Prikryl (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	66	Tony Fusco (6-1, 308, Jr.)
DE	94	Cameron Craig (6-4, 251, Sr.)
SLB	45	Charlie Rockwood (6-4, 221, Jr.)
MLB	54	Cason Shrode (6-3, 251, Sr.)
WLB	55	Barrett Scruggs (6-1, 213, Sr.)
FC	8	Darren Newson (5-1, 187, So.)
SS	13	Caleb Campbell (6-3, 223, Jr.)
FS	4	Randy Chasten (6-2, 211, Sr.)
BC	26	Sean Grevious (5-11, 173, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	49	Justin Koenig (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	1	Owen Tolson (6-3, 205, Jr.)

PHILADELPHIA

TEMPLE OWLS

2005 Record: 0-11 overall

Bruce Francis, WR

New head coach. New conference (almost). New life for a struggling football program.

Temple turned the page on an 0-11 season in 2005 by bringing in University of Virginia Defensive Coordinator Al Golden with a mission of rekindling enthusiasm and resurrecting an Owls program that had hit the skids.

"It's starting to change," Golden says of the "culture" of Temple football. "There is still a lot of work to be done. We have increased discipline and unity and are becoming closer as a team. A defined approach to education, time management and personality is being instilled and the players are learning to trust the staff."

Trust is the foundation on which a revival can be built.

The Owls will maintain their independent status this season, while also being considered an affiliate member of the Mid-American Conference. Full membership in the MAC will come soon.

Temple will attack Golden's first campaign with a new face at quarterback. The derby will include sophomores Colin Clancy and Shane Kelly, along with freshman Jarrett Dunston.

Once he settles on an offensive leader, Golden will have him direct an arsenal that features running back Tim Brown, who missed last season because of academic concerns, and receivers Bruce Francis, Jamel Harris, Domerio Hamilton and Travis Shelton. Right tackle Elliot Seifert and center Alex Derenthal are returning starters on the line.

Temple's defense, utilizing a 3-4 alignment, will be focused around outside linebacker Ryan Gore, who has played in all 34 games over the last three seasons, and safety Chris Page.

5-YEAR WINS TREND

2005	
2004	2
2003	1
2002	4
2001	4

▲ *BOWL* ✷ *NATIONAL TITLE*

Head coach: Al Golden, 1st year
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field
Capacity: 68,532
Official athletic Web site: www.owlsports.com

2006 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'05 RESULT
A. 31	@BUFFALO	
S. 9	Louisville	
S. 16	@MINNESOTA	
S. 23	@W. MICHIGAN	16-19
S. 30	@VANDERBILT	
O. 7	Kent State	
O. 12	@CLEMSON*	7-37
O. 21	@N. ILLINOIS	
O. 28	Bowling Green	7-70
N. 4	Central Michigan	
N. 11	@PENN STATE	
N. 18	@NAVY	17-38

★ GAME TO WATCH ★

This will be the first test at home for new Temple Coach Al Golden, who faces a high-powered Cardinals offense.

** at Charlotte, N.C.*

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 8
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/31

OFFENSE		
QB	17	Shane Kelly (6-4, 215, So.)
FB	39	Josh Bundy (5-10, 240, Jr.)
RB	7	Tim Brown (5-8, 185, Sr.)
LT	71	Jabari Ferguson (6-4, 295, So.)
LG	55	Tariq Sanders (6-6, 310, Sr.)
C	59	Alex Derenthal (6-4, 280, So.)
RG	60	Neil Dickson (6-4, 280, Sr.)
RT	70	Elliot Seifert (6-7, 300, Sr.)
TE	84	Ben Hendy (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	82	Bruce Francis (6-0, 175, So.)
WR	2	Domerio Hamilton (6-0, 195, Sr.)
DEFENSE		
DE	73	Devin Tyler (6-7, 250, r-Fr.)
NT	92	Terrance Knighton (6-4, 325, So.)
DE	94	Philip Simpson (6-2, 275, So.)
OLB	93	Leyon Azubuike (6-3, 245, So.)
ILB	43	Keith Holt (6-1, 215, So.)
ILB	44	Walter Mebane (6-0, 225, Sr.)
OLB	5	Ryan Gore (6-0, 225, Sr.)
CB	29	Georg Coleman (6-0, 180, So.)
CB	6	David Reese (5-11, 180, Sr.)
S	21	Dominique Harris (6-3, 190, r-Fr.)
S	24	Chris Page (5-10, 175, Sr.)
SPECIALISTS		
PK	18	Danny Murphy (5-8, 175, Jr.)
P	47	Jake Brownell (5-10, 195, r-Fr.)

★ DIVISION I-AA ★

Look for Wildcats to prevail in division that crowns a champion the proper way

By **MATT McKENZIE**
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

Division I college football can have its bowls, spread out over a month, including numerous tie-ins with big corporate sponsorships. You want a *true* national champion? Look no further than one step down in Division I-AA.

Immediately after completing the regular season, 16 teams fight it out over the next four weeks in a playoff format. And although there's hardly as much hype leading up to the I-AA national championship compared with the BCS, the reward is that much greater, says Jerry Moore, coach of the 2005 champion Appalachian State Mountaineers.

"I've never had any second thoughts about I-AA playoffs," Moore says. "When it's all said and done ... it's one of the hardest championships in the NCAA. There's no breaks and there's no bias."

While Division I teams get to rest their players between the end of the regular season and the bowl games, it's right back to work for I-AA teams in the playoffs. And more often than not, to prevail as the champion, teams have to get past conference opponents again in the postseason, as Appalachian State did with Furman (Southern) last year and James Madison did with William and Mary (Atlantic 10) two seasons ago.

For the Mountaineers to repeat, they'll have to get past New Hampshire, which tops *Street & Smith's* preseason Top 25 I-AA poll. The Wildcats are led by the tantalizing combo of quarterback Ricky Santos and receiver David Ball, who both are on *Street & Smith's* preseason All-America list.

Santos has thrown for 7,115 yards and 70 touchdowns over two seasons with New Hampshire, and Ball has been his favorite target. During that same span, the senior receiver has 3,055 receiving yards and 41 touchdowns.

"They've been two key components to this offense," says Wildcats Coach Sean McDonnell. "The guy pulling the trigger, Ricky, and the guy catching the ball, David. Both of them have led by example the last couple years, and they continue to improve. David's been working on his speed and takeoff, and Ricky is going to try and cut down on his interceptions."

McDonnell adds that along with a good squad on the field, other factors have to be in place in order for a team to avoid an upset during the postseason. And he should know—last year the Wildcats had the top seed in the I-AA playoffs, but lost in the second round to Northern Iowa.

David Ball, New Hampshire

"You've got to stay injury-free or have depth," he says. "Look at what Appalachian State did. They won it because of how hard they played. Their starting quarterback [Richie Williams] went down [before] the championship game, and the backup [Trey Elder] came in for a half and played well.

"Our kids that have been in the hunt before, they know that you've got to be lucky and got to get some breaks. I don't know when those are going to come, but hopefully we'll catch some this season."

Rounding out the preseason top five are Montana, James Madison and Northern Iowa, last year's runner-up for the I-AA championship. It's been 20 years since at least one of those teams did not make the playoffs. Look for that trio to make noise come this postseason, especially if New Hampshire's defense can't match the offense and Appalachian State has trouble with the loss of offensive star Williams.

Then again, maybe it's better to go into the playoffs as an underdog. Only one time (Montana, 2001) in the last 11 years has a No. 1 seed won the I-AA Championship. With 16 of the best teams battling, there's no easy game in the playoffs, and certainly no room for error.

"It's a grueling 18 weeks to the year, I'll tell you that," Moore says.

STREET & SMITH'S DIVISION I-AA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Ricky Santos (6-2, 215, Jr.) New Hampshire
RB	Alonzo Coleman (5-11, 205, Sr.) Hampton
RB	James Noble (5-6, 180, r-So.) Cal Poly
OL	Matt Alfred (6-3, 290, Jr.) Eastern Washington
OL	Ed McCarthy (6-5, 302, Sr.) Yale
OL	Eric Johnson (6-3, 287, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
OL	Matt Isenhour (6-1, 275, Sr.) Appalachian State
C	Alex Miller (6-2, 300, r-Sr.) Massachusetts
WR	Laurent Robinson (6-2, 195, Sr.) Illinois State
WR	David Ball (6-3, 185, Jr.) New Hampshire
TE	Patrick Bugg (6-5, 215, r-Sr.) Eastern Kentucky
PK	Andrew Paterini (6-0, 195, Sr.) Hampton
RS	Nick Feldman (5-9, 175, So.) Morehead State

DEFENSE

DL	Kevin Winston (6-3, 230, r-Sr.) James Madison
DT	Tory Collins (6-3, 280, Sr.) Northwestern State
DE	Marques Murrell (6-2, 230, Sr.) Appalachian State
DE	Martin Jackson (6-4, 250, Sr.) Alcorn State
LB	Justin Durant (6-2, 227, Sr.) Hampton
LB	Chad Nkang (6-0, 214, Sr.) Elon
LB	Kyle Shotwell (6-1, 235, Sr.) Cal Poly
DB	Tristan Burge (6-0, 200, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
DB	Corey Lynch (6-0, 200, Jr.) Appalachian State
DB	Tony LeZotte (6-0, 200, r-Jr.) James Madison
DB	Keldrick Holman (6-0, 195, Sr.) Stephen F. Austin
P	David Simonhoff (6-2, 200, Sr.) Southeast Missouri State

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Ricky Santos**, QB, New Hampshire
Defense	**Marques Murrell**, DE, Appalachian St.
Newcomer	**Josh Swogger**, QB, Montana

TOP 25

1. New Hampshire
2. Appalachian State
3. Montana
4. James Madison
5. Northern Iowa
6. Cal Poly
7. Illinois State
8. Youngstown State
9. Furman
10. Hampton
11. North Dakota State
12. Delaware
13. Nicholls State
14. Coastal Carolina
15. UC Davis
16. Texas State
17. Eastern Kentucky
18. McNeese State
19. Colgate
20. Georgia Southern
21. Eastern Illinois
22. Grambling State
23. Massachusetts
24. South Carolina State
25. William and Mary

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Ricky Santos**, QB, New Hampshire
Defense	**Tony LeZotte**, S, James Madison
Newcomer	**Joe Flacco**, QB, Delaware

PREDICTIONS

NORTH
1. New Hampshire
2. Massachusetts
3. Maine
4. Hofstra
5. Rhode Island
6. Northeastern

SOUTH
1. James Madison
2. Delaware
3. William & Mary
4. Richmond
5. Villanova
6. Towson

ATLANTIC 10

While A-10 title is up for grabs this year, league will be fruitful come playoff time

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Pick a team projected to finish well back in the Atlantic 10 Football Conference pack. Somewhere down there is a 2006 Division I-AA playoff qualifier, if the last two years can be used as indicators.

The A-10's balance was clearly demonstrated in 2004, when James Madison was forecast to finish fourth in the six-member A-10 South Division, then won the national championship. Last August, Richmond was projected as the fifth-place team in the South. The Spiders shared the league title with New Hampshire, then went on to eliminate the only unbeaten team (Hampton) left in I-AA on the road in the first round of the playoffs.

The 2006 A-10 race figures to be just as unpredictable, but count on the conference sending nationally competitive outfits to the postseason. Three times during the last decade, an A-10 team has captured the national championship, including back-to-back titles in 2003 (Delaware) and 2004 (JMU), while Massachusetts won it all in 1998. This will be the A-10's last shot at a I-AA championship, as the Colonial Athletic Association assumes operational control of the football league next year (membership will remain the same).

Several of the league's top talents from last season return, led by New Hampshire quarterback Ricky Santos, the A-10's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year as a sophomore. Santos passed for 3,797 yards and 39 touchdowns and led the Wildcats to their second consecutive trip to the playoffs. No other league QB threw more than 20 TDs.

A third straight season of playoff qualification seems probable for UNH, which also brings back David Ball, a 6-3 senior receiver who averaged 17.8 yards per catch and caught 24 TD passes last season, 11 more than any other A-10 WR.

The 2005 A-10 Defensive Player of the Year, All-America JMU safety Tony LeZotte, is only a junior this season. But the 6-0, 190-pound LeZotte already has established himself as a fearless and forceful run-stopper and savvy pass defender for the Dukes, who will rely on defense, a power running game and the league's best home-field atmosphere.

The A-10's top seven rushers from 2005 return, as do the top six passers, the top five sack men and 15 of the top 20 tacklers. The league has advanced multiple teams to the postseason 15 straight times, the longest active streak among I-AA conferences. In short, the A-10 remains one of the most powerful I-AA leagues.

NORTH DIVISION

Ricky Santos has two tough acts to follow, both of them his own. The junior quarterback threw 31 touchdown passes as a **New Hampshire** freshman, then followed that with 39 last season. No active Division I QB has thrown for more career TDs than the 6-2, 215-pound Santos.

Wildcats receiver David Ball leads all active Division I players with 45 career TD catches. New Hampshire Coach Sean McDonnell's offense led the A-10 with a scoring average of 41.7 points in 2005, mostly thanks to their QB/wideout duo. Leading 2005 rusher John McCoy (942 yards) is gone, but quick tailback Kaysonne Anderson reactivates after missing last year with a knee injury.

From a defense that led I-AA with 45 takeaways, seven starters graduated. The secondary remains strong, led by junior Jeff Pammer, who was named as a second-team All-American last season.

The Wildcats have advanced to the last two I-AA tournaments and won a school-record 11 games in 2005. A third straight trip seems likely with the Santos/Ball combination.

GAME TO WATCH: 10/14/06: James Madison @ New Hampshire

These division-title contenders haven't met since 2003, with the last three meetings decided by a TD or less, and UNH winning two of three.

Safety James Ihedigbo led **Massachusetts** in sacks (7.5) and tackles for loss (12.5) last season, which speaks to the aggressive style the Minutemen have employed since defensive-minded Don Brown took over as coach in 2004.

UMass returns virtually all of the difference-makers who helped it lead I-AA in scoring defense (13.3 points per game), finish third in total defense (261.2 yards per game) and surrender just five rushing TDs. The linebackers, with Jason Hatchell as anchor, will get a push from Connecticut transfer Anthony Rouzier, while senior cornerback Tracy Belton has 10 interceptions in 26 starts.

Senior Steve Baylark, a 225-pound running back, will go for his fourth consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season—something only two players in I-AA history have accomplished.

The role of sophomore quarterback Liam Coen may expand this season in Brown's balanced offense. Coen completed 63.9 percent of his passes as a rookie, and this year will work with a couple of imposing targets, 6-4 Brandon London and 6-5 Rasheed Rancher. When UMass punts, it will do so with one of I-AA's best, senior Christian Koegel, who finished fourth nationally in 2005 (43-yard average).

Maine wants to pick up where it left off last season. In winning three of its last four games in 2005, the Black Bears averaged 28.3 points. Overall, though, Maine still may be a bit green for playoff contention.

Coach Jack Cosgrove has a senior quarterback in Ron Whitcomb, who has passed for 6,965 career yards and 59 TDs. Whitcomb will focus on senior receiver Arel Gordon (70 receptions), but there's not much else in the way of experienced wideouts. Maine will also break in a new running back—either sophomore Jerron Pearson or sophomore Wellington Talkpa—to step in for Montell Owens (779 rushing yards). A better running game will be key for a team that finished 10th among 12 A-10 teams in rushing yards per game last season.

The Bears allowed a league-high 42 sacks in 2005, but that set of blockers was young, and improved as the season progressed. Look for the Black Bears to be one of the better A-10 defenses, with linebacker John Wormuth and 6-3 DB Daren Stone working behind a line that features Mike DeVito (6.5 sacks).

At **Hofstra**, out goes the run-and-shoot offense and in comes a more traditional brand. That's the most obvious change accompanying Joe Gardi's retirement as the Pride's coach after 16 seasons and the naming of Dave Cohen as Gardi's successor. Under Cohen, Hofstra isn't likely to finish third nationally in passing (306.5 yards per game) as it did last season. But the Pride probably will average more than the 123.4 rushing yards a game they did in 2005. This should be good news for running backs Terry Crenshaw (817 rushing yards) and Kareem Huggins.

Hofstra had the league's best one-two punch at wide receiver last season in Marques Colston and Devale Ellis. Both are now gone, but junior Charles Sullivan already has 100 career catches. Senior QB Anton Clarkson averaged 302 passing yards a game, but may need time to acclimate to the new scheme.

Defensively, Hofstra went from 10th in the league (27.5 points per game) in 2004 to fourth in 2005 (20.2), and has seven returning starters, including all four in the secondary. Look for that improvement to continue with the return of junior linebacker Gian Villante, a 2004 All-American who missed last season (knee injury).

Rob Zarrilli gives the Pride a reliable kicker. He comes off a sophomore season in which he converted 17 of 19 field-goal

attempts and 33 of 36 extra points, helping him to be named third-team All-American.

Find a hard-nosed fullback who quickly gets to the hole. Then put him in a run-based offense. That's how **Rhode Island's** Joe Casey led the A-10 in rushing last season as a freshman.

The 5-10, 200-pound Casey gained 1,245 yards last year in the Rams' wishbone-style setup, which picked up an average of 318.5 ground yards—third best in Division I-AA.

Coach Tim Stowers needs a new triggerman with the loss of slippery QB Jayson Davis, who left URI as the program's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (42). Derek Cassidy is the favorite to succeed Davis, and the sophomore may give the Rams a better passing threat. Eight defensive starters are back to help URI improve on its total-defense numbers of 400.1 yards given up per game in 2005.

Five straight road games start **Northeastern's** season, and that includes an opener at Virginia Tech. For the young Huskies, it may be time for some character-building. Coach Rocky Hager's offense will revolve around junior running back Maurice Murray, who gained 998 yards last season.

Quarterback Anthony Orio started as a redshirt freshman last season, when the Huskies averaged 22.5 points per game (11th in the A-10). But Northeastern's defense needs the most sharpening, as the Huskies allowed averages of 30.9 points and 405.7 yards in 2005. Seven starters are back, including two of the league's better linebackers in senior Jamil Young and junior Joe Mele.

SOUTH DIVISION

Each of **James Madison's** four losses last season was decided by six points or less. That's how the 2004 national champion fell out of the 2005 Division I-AA playoff picture.

However, the Dukes aren't in for a significant rebuilding job after back-to-back strong seasons. Coach Mickey Matthews needs to replace about half of the unit that finished fifth nationally in scoring defense (15.3 points per game), but retooling the defense shouldn't be a problem, especially with All-America safety Tony LeZotte in the middle of the operation.

The junior is the first player in nearly 30 years to earn first-team All-A-10 honors after each of his first two seasons, and LeZotte was the prime reason JMU allowed a league-low eight touchdown passes in 2005. The Dukes will again major in a ball-control running game that features a pair of 2,000-yard career rushers in redshirt seniors Alvin Banks (2,389 yards) and Maurice Fenner (2,316).

Redshirt-senior quarterback Justin Rascati has passed for 31 touchdowns and been intercepted only 10 times in two JMU seasons after transferring from Louisville. Madison has its big-play receiving threat back after speedy D.D. Boxley played in just four games in 2005 due to a dislocated ankle.

Defensive end Kevin Winston (8 sacks) is back, along with standout junior linebacker Akeem Jordan.

Not even **Delaware's** field avoided a slip in 2005. The Blue Hens played a "home" game at Richmond, due to ultra-muddy conditions at Delaware Stadium, as part of a disappointing 6-5 season.

Delaware failed to generate offensive continuity last year, other than Omar Cuff. The All-A-10 running back rushed for 1,205 yards and was also the league's top pass-catching back (41 receptions).

To achieve better offense, the Blue Hens need to spread the ball around. That job will go to a new quarterback, probably junior Joe Flacco, a Pittsburgh transfer. Four of Delaware's top five tacklers return, including well-regarded senior linebacker KeiAndre Hepburn. And the Blue Hens will have seven home games on a new playing surface—good news for Delaware, which is 25-4 at home in four years under Coach K.C. Keeler.

William & Mary has been among the A-10's most consistent winners since joining the league in 1993. But in 2005, the Tribe dropped their last four games—the first time that happened since Jimmye Laycock became coach in 1980—and finished with its first losing league record (3-5).

Don't look for major surgery at W&M; that's not how Laycock operates. The Tribe will go with sophomore QB Jake Phillips, who passed for 1,564 yards and 12 touchdowns as a redshirt freshman despite starting just seven games. Phillips will be complemented by a solid tandem of backs in senior Elijah Brooks (944 yards) and sophomore DeBrian Holmes (304).

The Tribe's main problem in 2005 was defense, and that weakness will be addressed by the return of two linebackers who missed last season—Chris Ndubueze (personal reasons) and Travis McLaurin (injured).

Phillips' top receiver is junior Joe Nicholas, who has made five or more catches in 14 of his 24 games. The Tribe needs to find a new kicker, who will have big shoes to fill, as Greg Kuehn completed his career with a league-record 59 field goals.

Richmond tries to follow up its 2005 unexpected success without the player most responsible—quarterback Stacy Tutt.

Tutt passed (2,219 yards) and ran (828) the Spiders to a share of the A-10 title and the I-AA quarterfinals in a season in which Richmond was projected to finish fifth in the South.

Coach Dave Clawson and the Spiders' staff studied three QB candidates in the spring—sophomore Levi Brown, redshirt sophomore Will Healy and redshirt freshman Eric Ward.

A physical two-man tailback rotation consists of 220-pound junior Tim Hightower and 220-pound sophomore Josh Vaughan. Redshirt junior Arman Shields came on last season as a wide receiver who could turn a short completion into a long gain, a necessary component in Richmond's passing attack.

Seven starters return from a defense that allowed an average of 17.8 points per game, and the Spiders have playmakers in defensive end Sherman Logan—who led the league in sacks (11.5) and was named the 2005 A-10 Defensive Rookie of the Year—and linebacker Adam Goloboski, who has recorded more than 100 tackles in each of the last two seasons.

The return of QB Marvin Burroughs gives **Villanova** a chance in every game. But without improvement, the defense puts the Wildcats in jeopardy each time out. Burroughs, a creative senior who passed for 2,486 yards and 20 TDs two years ago, sustained a season-ending arm injury in last year's first game. The Wildcats never recovered, posting their first losing season (4-7) since 2000.

Villanova may give true freshmen Angelo Babbaro and Aaron Ball immediate chances in the backfield after the Wildcats finished last among A-10 teams in rushing (104.4 yards per game).

Only one A-10 player had more unassisted tackles in 2005 than Wildcats safety Allyn Bacchus, a senior this year. The Wildcats surrendered an average of 31.8 points per game, second worst in the conference. Bacchus and senior cornerback Rodney Badger give Villanova two of the A-10's better defensive backs, but the Wildcats will miss graduated linebacker Brian Hulea, who was first-team all-conference three times.

The next step for **Towson** is title contention, but that may be a stretch in 2006. As second-year A-10 members last season, the Tigers were the league's biggest surprise, staying in the playoff hunt until getting thumped in their final two games by Richmond and James Madison. Still, Towson (6-5 overall) made substantial progress after going winless in the conference during 2004.

Towson nearly doubled its point production from 2004 to 2005 (31.4 points per game) with Sean Schaefer taking over at QB. Last season as a freshman, he completed 61.9 percent of his passes for 2,772 yards and 20 TDs. Schaefer's instant emergence coincided with the steady running of Nick Williams (911 rushing yards), a junior this season.

A deep group of returning wideouts is highlighted by senior Andrae Brown, who led the Tigers last year in receiving yards (870) and catches (63) and 6-8 junior-college transfer Tommy Breaux, who is also expected to play basketball.

To make all that offensive talent translate into wins, Coach Gordy Combs now must find a way to stiffen his defense, which allowed a league-high average of 33.8 points per game. The Tigers were particularly vulnerable in the red zone, where opponents scored 32 touchdowns in 45 trips. Junior linebacker Brian Bradford is a good piece to build around.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Lex Hilliard**, RB, Montana
Defense	**Pago Togafau**, LB, Idaho State
Newcomer	**Josh Swogger**, QB, Montana

PREDICTIONS

1. Montana
2. Weber State
3. Portland State
4. Eastern Washington
5. Idaho State
6. Montana State
7. Northern Arizona
8. Sacramento State

*Northern Colorado not eligible for title

GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: Montana @ Weber State

A year ago, the Grizzlies had to hang on for a 24-19 early-season win over the Wildcats at home. This one will be in Ogden and Weber State will have the advantage of a bye week to get ready.

Can venerable McBride help Wildcats stop Montana's amazing run through Sky?

By **MIKE SORENSEN**
The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News

Ron McBride wasn't ready to retire, even if he was 65 years old. So after a successful 13-year stint at the University of Utah, where he won 88 games and three bowls, and two years as an assistant at Kentucky, McBride came back to Utah and took over the reins of a beleaguered Weber State program.

In just his first year in Ogden, he took a program that was 1-10 the year before and picked to finish last to a winning season at 6-5 and within one game of a piece of the league championship.

Now in Year Two, McBride is hoping to take the Wildcats to the next level and perhaps into the Division I-AA playoffs for the first time since 1991. At his age, McBride isn't on any five-year plan. He wants to win now.

He'll have plenty of competition, especially from perennial Big Sky champion Montana, which has advanced to the I-AA playoffs 13 straight years and has won a share of the league title for eight consecutive seasons. Portland State has the talent to challenge for the league title, along with Eastern Washington, which has won a share of the past two championships.

Montana will be strong as usual with the return of running back Lex Hilliard, who ran for 1,322 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Joining him on offense will be quarterback Josh Swogger, a transfer from Washington State, and receiver Craig Chambers, who transferred from Washington.

Defensively, the Grizzlies return seven starters, including defensive end Mike Murphy, linebacker Tyler Joyce, cornerbacks Tuff Harris and Jimmy Wilson and safety Torrey Thomas. Punter Tyson Johnson and placekicker Dan Carpenter, both second-team all-league selections last year, give Montana one of the country's top kicking games.

Weber State has seven returning starters on offense, including the top returning quarterback in the league, Ian Pizarro, who passed for 2,357 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. His leading receiver, Terry Larsen (39 catches), is also back.

The Wildcats have quite a stable of running backs led by Zach Hall, who was fourth in the league with 848 rushing yards in '05, and Adrian Conway, who ran for 560 yards before getting hurt.

Defense could be the big question mark, as Weber must replace seven starters, including three All-Big Sky performers. Former walk-on Tyler DeBry, who started all 11 games at roverback last year, and noseguard Derek Johnson return.

Portland State led the league in rushing last year, but lost running back Joe Rubin, who accounted for a league-leading 1,702 yards in 2005. The Vikings do have quarterback Sawyer Smith returning, along with New Mexico State transfer Mu'Ammar Ali at running back. Coach Tim Walsh begins his 14th year with an experienced squad that includes 43 lettermen, six offensive starters, six defensive starters plus the placekicker and punter. Two of the strongest positions are the offensive line, where all-conference talents Brennan Carvalho, Peter St. John and Derek Duff are back, and cornerback, which has all-league players Dominic Dixon and Odell Jackson returning.

Eastern Washington may have a hard time repeating as Big Sky champs after losing Walter Payton Award-winning quarterback Erik Meyer and All-America receiver Eric Kimble.

Coach Paul Wulff is happy to have running back Ryan Cole, who ran for 879 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, along with 13 other starters. However, he has big holes to fill, not only at quarterback and receiver but at linebacker and cornerback, where the Eagles lost the Big Sky's co-Defensive Player of the Year, Joey Cwik. A pair of all-conference safeties, Bryant Jarrett and Brandon Keeler, will anchor the defense.

Idaho State is counting on Michigan transfer Matt Gutierrez to take over at quarterback. He'll have several top targets, including Eddie Thompson, a second-team all-league selection in '05. The backfield looks strong with running backs Josh Barnett and Ken Cornist, who combined for 1,576 yards and 19 touchdowns last year.

Lex Hilliard, Montana

On defense, co-Big Sky Player-of-the-Year Jeff Charleston is gone, but all-conference linebacker Pago Togafau anchors a defense that ranked second in the league and has six starters returning. The Bengals will miss All-America kicker Jaret Johnson, who made 17 of 19 field-goal tries last season.

Montana State, one of three teams to tie for the league title last year, has seven returning starters, led by safety Ryan Force and linebacker Epikopo King, who ranked second and third, respectively, in tackles in 2005. Aaron Papich and Clive Lowe give needed experience to the defensive line.

The offense will be untested as the four-year starter at QB, Travis Lulay, has graduated, along with his three top receivers. Junior Cory Carpenter and Hawaii transfer Jack Rolovich battled in the spring, with Carpenter gaining the edge going into the fall.

Northern Arizona has nowhere to go but up after a 1-6 last-place finish in 2005. Jason Murrietta has started for three years at quarterback, including an MVP season in 2003, and has a couple of talented receivers in Alex Watson and Kory Mohr.

On defense, cornerback K.J. Gerard was a second-team all-league selection last year after nabbing four interceptions. Linebacker Chris Hunsaker earned honorable-mention all-league honors. Punter Rhian Madrid, who averaged 43 yards per kick last season, leads the special teams.

Sacramento State's strength should come on the defensive side, where 10 starters return, including safeties Brett Shelton and Brent Webster and defensive linemen Walter Brock and Mike Brannon.

Running back Ryan Mole rushed for 1,626 yards in his first two seasons and was a second-team all-league selection last year. But the Hornets will need to find a quarterback among juco transfer Tim Brockwell, holdover Crosby Wehr and freshman Austin Stanford.

Northern Colorado joins the Big Sky this year and will play a full league schedule, although the Bears won't be eligible for the championship. Scott Downing, a former Nebraska assistant, has taken over as coach and he'll have some talent to work with, including Andre Wilson, who rushed for 1,034 yards last year, receiver Andy Birkel (50 receptions) and linebacker Jake Duren (103 tackles).

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

PREDICTIONS

1. Coastal Carolina
2. Charleston Southern
3. Gardner-Webb
4. Liberty
5. VMI

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Collin Drafts**, QB, Charleston Southern
Defense	**Jamar Leath**, LB, Coastal Carolina
Newcomer	**Jamar Anderson**, WR, Coastal Carolina

GAME TO WATCH: 11/18/06: Charleston Southern @ Coastal Carolina
Coastal had a dream season ruined at Charleston Southern last year, losing 34-27 in double OT after blowing a two-TD lead with 2:49 to play.

Chanticleers hope to erase memories of bitter Charleston Southern loss with first NCAA bid

By **GARY McCANN**
The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

The Big South Conference got some good news over the summer when Presbyterian College, an NCAA Division II program looking to move up to Division I-AA, applied for admission to the league and was accepted.

That gives the Big South six football-playing members, meaning the conference has enough teams to qualify for an automatic berth in the I-AA football playoffs. The bad news is that can't happen until 2011, when Presbyterian, which finished 10-2 last year, becomes eligible for conference and NCAA championships.

In the meantime, it will be business as usual for a league still hoping to land an at-large spot in the postseason. It could have happened last year, but Coastal Carolina, which beat 2004 I-AA champ James Madison during the regular season, gave away a two-touchdown lead in the final 2:49, including the tying score with no time on the clock, and lost to Charleston Southern 34-27 in double overtime (one of three OT games for the Chanticleers) in the last game of the regular season.

The Chants and Bucs tied for first place, which was a good thing for the overall football picture in the league. But the loss cost Coastal a shot at a Top 25 national ranking and an at-large spot in the playoffs. Instead of finishing with a gaudy 10-1 record, the Chants ended 9-2 with nowhere to go for the second straight season.

Charleston Southern finished 7-4, the best campaign in school history.

It's likely this season's league title will come down to Nov. 18, when Coastal hosts the Bucs in the regular-season finale.

Before that, the Big South hopes to make some I-AA waves, playing nine games against the perennially powerful Southern Conference, including Gardner-Webb hosting defending national champion Appalachian State.

Coastal Carolina is 25-8 in three seasons under Coach David Bennett, who started the program from scratch, and all that's missing is that playoff spot. Bennett has a senior-laden squad (35) this season, including quarterback Tyler Thigpen (1,589 yards, 11 TDs), first-team all-conference offensive lineman Brad Poston, linebacker Jamar Leath (108 tackles) and kicker Josh Hoke (38-of-38 PATs, 14-for-22 FGs), who led the league in kick scoring.

Also back are second-team all-league running back Aundres Perkins (12 TDs) and wide receiver Jerome Simpson, whose 33 catches, 527 receiving yards and nine touchdowns were all single-season school records. Perkins averaged 5.1 yards per carry and had two TDs or more in five games. Simpson, a sophomore, is already the school's all-time leader in receptions (59), receiving yards (946) and touchdowns (17).

Defensive lineman Adrain Grady (48 tackles, 3.5 sacks) and defensive back Sergio Geiger (30 tackles, 2 interceptions) also return.

Keep an eye on 6-0, 185-pound freshman wide receiver Jamar Anderson, who could team with Simpson to form a potent one-two punch.

Bennett must replace leading rusher Patrick Hall and the middle of the offensive line, but one of the team's strengths has been depth, so filling the holes shouldn't be a problem.

The Chanticleers led the league in total defense (337.5 ypg) and turnover margin last year, and that side of the ball will be the key this season. Seven of the top 10 tacklers return, led by Leath, who should make a run at Big South Defensive Player of the Year after finishing third in the voting last season.

Last year's finish earned Coach Jay Mills a multiyear contract extension at **Charleston Southern.** In three years under Mills, the Bucs are just 13-20, but have improved steadily from 1-11 to 5-5 to 7-4.

Mills, the 2005 Big South Coach of the Year, has 16 starters back from a team that closed last season on a five-game winning streak. If not for a surprising loss at VMI, the Bucs might have won the league outright and been knocking on that I-AA playoff door.

Mills welcomes back quarterback Collin Drafts, the league's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year who owns every school passing record, including total yards (7,103) and TDs (52). Last year, the 6-3, 198-pound senior threw for 2,544 yards, 20 TDs and completed 61 percent of his passes.

The top two rushers from last year, Andre Copeland (league-leading 721 yards, 7 TDs) and Robert Adams (356 yards), are back to run behind a line anchored by returning starters Rick Howell and Alex Bragg. First-team all-league wide receiver Maurice Price (72 catches, 1,043 yards, 7 TDs) is also back.

Defensively, the Bucs have to fill some holes up front, but last season's Defensive Player of the Year, Jada Ross (128 tackles), returns along with fellow linebackers Josh Mitchell (86) and Jonna Lee (62) and every starter in the secondary.

Once the league's dominant team, **Gardner-Webb** is playing catch-up with Coastal and Charleston Southern. Coach Steve Patton's Runnin' Bulldogs finished a disappointing 5-6 last year and lost to Coastal and Charleston Southern.

Patton returns 18 players who started games last year, but loses quarterback Nick Roberts. Devin Campbell, a 6-4 sophomore, is the likely heir at QB after throwing for 779 yards and seven TDs last season, and he should have a good target in Duvaughn Flagler (55 catches, 826 yards, 13 TDs), who led the league in receiving yards per game (75.1).

Demario Deese, who made all-conference as a freshman, anchors the offensive line.

Defensively, the Bulldogs need to get much better after giving up a league-high 33.4 points per game and ranking last in pass defense (225.1 ypg) and total defense (433.4).

All-conference defensive end Brian Johnston and defensive backs Daniel Cooke (99 tackles, 4 INTs) and Xavier Wallace (33, 2) are back, but there are big questions on the defensive line and at linebacker.

One of the first moves new Coach Danny Rocco made after taking over at **Liberty** was to junk the 4-3 defense the Flames used under former Coach Ken Karcher in favor of the 3-4 alignment he'd learned under Al Groh with the New York Jets and at Virginia.

With linebackers easier to come by than big, strong defensive linemen, Rocco thinks that plays into the strength of his personnel. Three of Liberty's top six tacklers return from last year's 1-10 team (0-4 Big South), and all are linebackers—Manny Rojas (102 tackles), Brandon Duke (62) and Nick Hursky (58).

But Liberty's biggest problems last year were on offense. They averaged just 13.3 points per game (last in the league) and ranked at the bottom in rushing offense (111.9 ypg). And that makes the switch of leading rusher Zach Terrell (668 yards), a first-team all-conference pick, to QB an interesting one.

Another new coach, Jim Reid, takes over a **VMI** program that was 3-8 (2-2 Big South) last year and 19-60 in seven seasons under predecessor Cal McCombs. Reid led Richmond to 48 wins in nine seasons and I-AA playoff appearances in 1998 and 2000 before taking assistant jobs at Syracuse and Bucknell. Reid at least knows the I-AA landscape, but he's going to have to find some talented players ready and willing to play for a military school. Seven Keydets made all-conference last year, but six of them were seniors. Defensive end Eric Hall (54 tackles, 5 sacks) is the lone all-conference player returning.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Eric Sanders**, QB, Northern Iowa
Defense	**Cameron Siskowic**, LB, Illinois State
Newcomer	**Aaron Miller**, LB, Western Illinois

PREDICTIONS

1. Northern Iowa
2. Illinois State
3. Youngstown State
4. Southern Illinois
5. Western Kentucky
6. Western Illinois
7. Missouri State
8. Indiana State

GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Sensational Sanders gives Northern Iowa the upper hand in always-tough Gateway

By **RANDY REINHARDT**
Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph

GAME TO WATCH: 11/18/06: Illinois State @ Northern Iowa
The final regular-season game for both teams could have conference championship and playoff implications. Illinois State throttled the then-13th-ranked Panthers, 38-3, at home last season, but quarterback Eric Sanders missed the game with an injury.

Five teams finished within a game of the Gateway Conference title in 2005. Three of those squads were co-champions, while two were selected for the Division I-AA playoffs.

Yet it was only Northern Iowa that emerged from the Gateway meat grinder to enjoy postseason success. The Panthers advanced to the national championship game before falling to Appalachian State.

The quarterback who cemented his reputation as an All-American returns for the Panthers, and junior Eric Sanders gives Northern Iowa a major asset in what figures to be another highly competitive Gateway race.

Illinois State and Youngstown State appear to have the best opportunity to challenge the Panthers, while recent contenders Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky should not be counted out.

The Gateway welcomes back an old friend in new Missouri State Coach Terry Allen, who had a highly successful run at Northern Iowa before spending five years as coach at Kansas.

This will be Eric Sanders' **Northern Iowa** team. His spectacular 2005 season showed the QB is capable of carrying a Panthers squad that has some question marks to more Gateway glory. Sanders completed more than 68 percent of his passes in Northern Iowa's 11-4 campaign, while tossing 23 TD passes and a mere five interceptions in 312 attempts.

The offensive line will be stout, with I-A transfers Jason Fiacco and Brandon Keith joining returning starters Barrett Anderson, Joe Lobdall, Tyler Rawlins and Chad Rinehart. The Panthers need to rebuild their receiving corps and either Corey Lewis or Derrick Law must emerge as a dependable tailback.

Cornerbacks Dre Dokes and Curtis Cooper and safety Chris Parsons are back in the secondary, but the rest of the defense is unsettled. Kicker Brian Wingert and punter Adam Kos return.

Illinois State welcomes back several components from an offense that averaged 39.2 points last season. Quarterback Luke Drone went from unproven first-year starter to star in a 2,930-yard passing season. Wide receiver Laurent Robinson turned in an All-America season with 86 catches for 1,465 yards to earn honors as Gateway Offensive Player of the Year. Tailback Pierre Rembert rushed for 801 yards.

An offensive line must deal with the effects of losing four-year starters Mike Stegeman and Stafford Davis and hope tackle Barry Hartman's creaky back allows him to be effective.

The Redbird defense lost one Buck Buchanan Award candidate in sack-master end Brent Hawkins, but returns another in relentless linebacker Cameron Siskowic. Defensive backs James Temple and Jesse Caesar are proven players.

The Illinois State kicking game was a season-long problem in 2005 that appears yet to be solved, and the graduation of standout Ryan Hoffman means the Redbirds also are in the market for a punter.

At **Youngstown State**, the Penguins' waddle will be a highly motivated one after getting passed over for a playoff bid last year despite a Gateway co-championship and an 8-3 regular-season mark. A depth chart featuring 26 seniors means Youngstown State should be challenging for a postseason spot again. Quarterback Tom Zetts and tailbacks Monquantae Gibson and Marcus Mason provide a nice pass-run mix behind a seasoned offensive line. Two former Big Ten Conference players in tight end Louis Irizarry and wide receiver Miles Williams could make a good offense significantly better with big contributions as newcomers. Jason Perry and Codera Jackson could be the league's top cornerback duo.

With the rest of the league uttering a relieved "finally," **Southern Illinois** must look elsewhere at quarterback after the graduation of four-year starter Joel Sambursky. The new starter—junior Nick Hill is the front-runner but junior-college transfer Justin Allen could be a factor—will enjoy the presence of four returning starters on an offensive line led by all-conference center Will Justice.

Tailback Arkee Whitlock is an obvious All-America candidate after rushing for 1,454 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

A fourth straight playoff appearance depends on successfully replacing nine defensive starters, including all four linemen and two linebackers. Western Michigan transfer Blake Sims should help safeties Marlon Heaston and Patrick Jordan in the secondary.

Southern has won or shared the past three Gateway championships.

Western Kentucky was cruising along as the top-ranked team in the nation with four weeks remaining in the 2005 regular season. The pleasure cruise turned into a shipwreck, as four straight losses extracted the Hilltoppers from conference-championship contention and snapped a string of four consecutive playoff appearances.

Coach David Elson's team has a solid foundation in quarterback Justin Haddix and 1,000-yard tailback Lerron Moore being among eight returning starters on offense. The line also should be strong, but there are receiver positions available for immediate occupancy.

The Hilltoppers' 3-4 defense lost all three starting linemen and two outside linebackers. Safety Marion Rumph and linebacker Jenkins Reese are defensive stalwarts. Placekicker Chris James is considered a real weapon after converting 15 of 17 field-goal attempts and all 42 extra-point tries in 2005.

Western Illinois boasts efficient quarterback Steve LaFalce, who completed 67.4 percent of his passes last season, and a deep threat in receiver Marco Thomas. Tackle Chad Walker is among the conference's top blockers and one of four returning starters up front. Alex Douglas is the leading candidate to take over for running back Travis Glasford, who graduated as the school's all-time rushing leader.

The Leathernecks' defense will benefit from having the same coordinator (Tom Casey) return for the first time in three seasons. And improvement is needed from a unit that surrendered 33.7 points per game. Safety Kevin Almlie and linebacker Aaron Miller are junior-college transfers likely to make an immediate impact.

New Coach Terry Allen, who will use a pro-style offense and a 4-3 defense, guided Northern Iowa to seven Gateway crowns and seven playoff berths in a tenure that ended in 1996. That's the kind of success yearned for at **Missouri State**, where the Bears have not won a conference title or appeared in the playoffs since 1990.

Allen says he wants to be solid on defense, fundamentally sound on special teams and have fun on offense. There will, of course, be trials of transition. But Missouri State expects 27 seniors on its fall roster and returns seven starters on offense and 10 on defense.

Quarterback Scott Carroll spent the spring tossing fastballs for the Bears' baseball team, but will be back to spirals in the fall. Four starters on the offensive line are back to block for Carroll. Led by Mike Radon, the entire secondary returns and linebackers Derrick Byrd and Kevin Sears were the team's top two tacklers last season.

Second-year **Indiana State** Coach Lou West is still seeking his first win after an 0-11 debut season in Terre Haute. The first order of business must be making significant improvements to a defense that coughed up 43.3 points per game.

PREDICTIONS

1. Cal Poly
2. North Dakota State
3. UC Davis
4. South Dakota State
5. Southern Utah

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**James Noble**, RB, Cal Poly
Defense	**Kyle Shotwell**, LB, Cal Poly
Newcomer	**P.J. Vallier, RB**, UC Davis

GAME TO WATCH: 10/29/06: Cal Poly @ UC Davis
The winner of this in-state rivalry also gets the "Golden Horseshoe." The Aggies have won six of the last nine, including a 20-13 victory last year.

Top trio will battle for league crown, but look for Cal Poly Mustangs to prevail

By **MATT McKENZIE**
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

One of the smallest Division I-AA football conferences just may also be the most talented.

The Great West Conference now only has five members, after Northern Colorado bolted this offseason for the Big Sky. But of those five, three are ranked in *Street & Smith's* I-AA preseason Top 25 poll.

Last year, Cal Poly and UC Davis tied for the league crown, but the postseason slot went to Cal Poly, which had a better overall record. The Mustangs became the first California school to make the I-AA playoffs, then earned respect by beating Montana on the road before falling to Texas State in the quarterfinals.

"We're trying to establish that we can compete in I-A and show that the difference in competition between the two divisions isn't that great," Cal Poly Coach Rich Ellerson says.

Cal Poly, North Dakota State and UC Davis all have viable shots to take the Great West title this year. But with such a small league, it's going to be difficult to make it through the conference season without a loss, meaning another shared crown is more than likely.

The players at **Cal Poly** saw new faces in the spring—both on and off the field. The Mustangs not only lost their top defensive player in 2005 Buck Buchanan Award winner Chris Gocong, but three assistant coaches as well: Ian Shields is now the head coach at Eastern Oregon; David Brown left to take an assistant job at Ohio; and Jeff Hammerschmidt joined the Stanford staff.

However, Coach Rich Ellerson was quick to replace them, and has one of the top running backs in the nation returning in James Noble. In his first season with the Mustangs, Noble had 1,578 yards (which ranked third in Division I-AA) and scored 16 touchdowns. He was a key component in Cal Poly's run to the I-AA playoffs—especially when starting QB Anthony Garnett tore his ACL and missed the second half of the season.

Sophomore Matt Brennan replaced Garnett and threw for 848 yards and four touchdowns. With a year of experience under his belt, expectations will be higher for Brennan. Fellow sophomore Ramses Barded was the Great West's top freshman receiver last year, and will team with speedy Tredale Tolver, also the Mustangs' return specialist.

Cal Poly has boasted the last two Buchanan winners in linebackers Gocong and Jordan Beck (2004), and could have another one in linebacker Kyle Shotwell (6-1, 235 pounds). Shotwell and defensive lineman Chris White (10.5 sacks) will allow the Mustangs to remain solid on defense despite the loss of Gocong, who set a school record with 23.5 sacks last season. Ken Chicoine (5 interceptions) anchors the secondary, and his younger brother, Tim, finished second in the Great West for punting (42.3-yard average).

The last game **North Dakota State** played in 2005 ended on a bad note, as the Bison lost 9-0 to Southern Illinois—the first time the team had been shut out in 120 games. But things are looking up in 2006 for NDSU, as it returns 12 starters.

Senior Kyle Steffes had his second straight season of 1,000 yards or more, and the 5-11, 206-pound halfback also scored a career-high 14 TDs. Three starters return on the Bison's offensive line, which allowed a league-low 15 sacks.

Quarterback Steve Walker is expected to be fully recovered after undergoing knee surgery in November. The 2004 Great West Rookie of the Year finished second in the conference in passing yards (1,781) and touchdowns (14) in 2005. Freshman Kole Heckendorf led the team in receptions last year and should improve on 470 yards and two TDs.

The Bison led the Great West in total defense (272.4 yards a game), and have a strong chance to repeat. Although ends Isaac Lavant and Alvin Robinson are gone, NDSU has strength returning in defensive tackle Justin Frick, linebacker Joe Mays and strong safety Craig Dahl. Frick and Mays were all-conference selections last season.

It could be argued that **UC Davis** had one of its most successful seasons in 2005. The Aggies (6-5) continued their streak of 36 consecutive winning seasons, captured a share of their Great West title for the first time and handed Stanford its first-ever loss to a Division I-AA team.

But UC Davis was on the outside looking in when the I-AA playoff teams were announced, and will have to work even harder for a selection now that the Great West no longer has an automatic bid. Senior quarterback Jon Grant will play a huge role in determining the Aggies' fate. As a junior, Grant led the conference in passing yards per game (261.2). No other Great West QB threw for more than 200 yards per game.

Grant's favorite target, senior Tony Kays, is also back. Kays' 93 catches and 1,213 receiving yards last season were school records. However, the Aggies would like the 6-1, 188-pound wide receiver to find the end zone more, as Kays had just three TDs last season. The Aggies' glaring weakness is their running game, where they averaged just 99.4 yards a contest. Senior Nelson Doris was the best of the bunch (328 yards).

As bad as the Aggies' ground offense performed, their rushing defense was just as good. UC Davis allowed only 87.5 rushing yards a game, second among all Division I-AA teams. Three of the Aggies' front four return, including end John Faletoese and tackle James Amos, who combined for 22 tackles for loss and 10 sacks last season. The secondary is solid as well, led by defensive backs Nevan Bergan (league-leading 7 interceptions) and Adam Cook (4).

Don't accuse **South Dakota State** of shying away from a challenge. The Jackrabbits managed a 6-5 record last season with a schedule that featured five teams ranked in the I-AA Top 25. This year is no easier, with such tough non-conference opponents as McNeese State, Montana, Nicholls State and Northern Iowa.

Senior Ryan Berry and sophomore Andy Kardoes split time at quarterback last season, with neither proving to be too effective. The duo combined for just 1,562 yards and 13 touchdowns while throwing a collective 15 picks. South Dakota State's strength was on the ground, as Cory Koenig (987 yards, 8 TDs) and Anthony Watson (908, 10) finished fourth and fifth, respectively, among Great West rushers. Junior Parker Douglass was the league's top kicker in 2005 with 19 field goals.

Defensively, SDSU will have to replace six starters. Linebackers Hank Goff (5 sacks) and Marty Krantz (56 tackles) are among the best of the returning players.

Southern Utah suffered through a tough 1-9 season last year, as the Thunderbirds ranked last in the Great West for total offense (275.9 ypg), scoring offense (12.6 ppg) and points allowed (32.8 a game). The latter is what Coach Wes Meier needs to address most, but losing six starters on defense doesn't help.

At quarterback, the battle is between Wes Marshall, a part-time starter last season, and New Mexico State transfer Royal Gill. After the Thunderbirds' spring game, Meier said he wouldn't name a starting QB until the fall.

Southern Utah needs improvement in its running game, as the team finished last in the league with just 707 rushing yards and only three touchdowns.

Senior Joey Hew Len, who transferred from Hawaii two years ago, is the team's top returning wideout.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Clifton Dawson**, RB, Harvard
Defense	**Zak DeOssie**, LB, Brown
Newcomer	**Ryan Fodor**, QB, Yale

PREDICTIONS

1. Harvard
2. Brown
3. Penn
4. Princeton
5. Yale
6. Cornell
7. Columbia
8. Dartmouth

THE IVY LEAGUE

Dawson eyes all-time Ivy rushing record and league title for Harvard Crimson

By **STEVE SILVERMAN**
Street & Smith's Correspondent

GAME TO WATCH: 09/23/06: Harvard @ Brown
How about saving the best for first? The Crimson goes for the sixth straight series win over the Bears in the Ivy League opener.

It was the best of years for the Brown Bears in 2005.

While the league title was expected to belong to Harvard or Penn, the Bears rolled to a 6-1 conference record, finishing as the undisputed Ivy League champions.

The 2006 season is likely to be a dogfight among Brown, Harvard and Penn—but give Harvard the early edge.

The Crimson can now boast having the league's outstanding player in Clifton Dawson, a sharp running back whom NFL scouts will keep their eyes on throughout the season. Dawson is not only an extremely productive running back, he is clearly one of the Crimson's top leaders and more than willing to carry the team on his strong shoulders.

Brown Coach Phil Estes is not about to have his team surrender easily, though. While the Bears lose the 2005 Ivy League Player of the Year in outstanding running back Nick Hartigan (1,727 yards and 20 touchdowns), quarterback Joseph DiGiacomo returns after passing for 1,800 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Harvard (7-3 overall, 5-2 Ivy in 2005) appears to have the makings of an offensive juggernaut with running back Clifton Dawson and quarterback Liam O'Hagan. Dawson ran for 1,139 yards on 258 carries and scored 11 touchdowns a year ago, making life much easier for O'Hagan in his first year as the Crimson starter. O'Hagan took over for Ryan Fitzpatrick (who played well as a rookie for the St. Louis Rams) and completed 157 of 262 passes for 2,005 yards with 15 touchdown passes, but will have to cut down on the interceptions (13).

That multifaceted attack should make Harvard dangerous all season long. If Dawson can maintain the same kind of pace he had last year, the senior will break Ed Marinaro of Cornell's ancient Ivy League record and become the conference's all-time leading rusher.

Another plus for the Crimson is the play of the defensive line. First-team All-Ivy League defensive tackle Michael Berg is a legitimate All-America candidate who leads a veteran group up front. Two starters return from last year and there's plenty of depth.

Linebacker Matt Thomas is back to anchor the defense.

Brown (9-1, 6-1) did something in 2005 that it had never done throughout its history: win the Ivy League title outright.

Coach Phil Estes, whose team also shared the Ivy title in 1999, made history by riding the strong rushing of running back Nick Hartigan. Hartigan has moved on, but the Bears are not about to roll over and give their Ivy League title away. Brown returns five starters on offense and six on defense, and that total includes five All-Ivy League selections.

Brown will look to the other side of the ball and senior linebacker Zak DeOssie as its way back to the title. DeOssie recorded 80 tackles and five sacks last season, and is a strong candidate this year for the Buck Buchanan Award.

On offense, Joseph DiGiacomo's 3,314 career passing yards and 233 career completions rank him fourth and fifth, respectively, in Brown history.

Hartigan will clearly be missed at running back, but Brandon Markey will try to step in. He ran for 145 yards and a touchdown on 29 attempts last year, and displayed speed and the agility on special teams.

Penn's (5-5, 3-4) slip and fall into the Ivy League's nether regions was as shocking as it was unexpected. The Quakers were cruising along with five wins in six games and were challenging Brown and Harvard for the Ivy League lead. Then Al Bagnoli saw his team drop a 34-20 decision at Brown and Penn never recovered, losing its last four.

Don't expect the Quakers to repeat that kind of finish this year. They should be able to do quite a bit of damage on offense, despite losing QB Pat McDermott. In his place steps junior Bryan Walker, who played in six games last season, throwing for 382 yards and four TDs.

But Walker should get some help from running back Joe Sandberg, who was the team's second-leading rusher last year with 399 yards for a 5.3 yards-per-carry mark and three touchdowns. Wideout Dan McDonald showed signs of becoming a big-time player last year, catching 29 passes for 504 yards and three TDs.

Princeton (7-3, 5-2) rounds out the top half of the Ivy League. The Tigers finished a surprising third behind Brown and Harvard and will now attempt to win their first league title in 12 years. Coach Roger Hughes should have plenty to work with on offense, but there is little doubt that the Tigers will miss defensive back Jay McCareins on the other side of the ball. McCareins, the brother of New York Jets wide receiver Justin McCareins, led I-AA with nine interceptions last year, including two returned for touchdowns.

Quarterback Jeff Terrell was not a dominant player last season, with a touchdown/interception ratio of 10/13, but he did enough to warrant confidence from the coaching staff and his teammates. Running back Rob Toresco, who ran for 611 yards and four touchdowns, is back to lead the rushing attack, while tight end Jon Dekker appears to be the go-to receiver after leading the Tigers with 32 catches in 2005.

Yale (4-6) Coach Jack Siedlecki could have one of the surprise teams in the conference following a 4-3 league record last year.

The Bulldogs return 18 starters—nine on offense, seven on defense and both kickers—so the team has experience and depth. Quarterback Jeff Mroz has moved on and Matt Polhemus will most likely be the starter unless sophomore Ryan Fodor unseats him. The backfield has one-two punch potential with sophomore Mike McLeod (689 yards, 6 TDs), the 2005 Ivy League Rookie of the Year, and senior Jordan Spence at running back. On the defensive side, Lee Driftmier returns as the team's leader at linebacker.

There's plenty of confidence around the **Cornell** (6-4, 4-3) program following last year's consistent play. Coach Jim Knowles believes his team has a shot at the conference title and the offensive line is the primary reason for his confidence.

Four starters from an offensive line that helped the Big Red rank eighth in the country in rushing offense (248.6 yards per game) return to the lineup, as does first-team All-Ivy League running back Luke Siwula, who rushed for 1,086 yards and eight touchdowns in his first year as a starter.

There are questions about the defense, but the line looks strong because three of four starters return to a group that allowed just 88.3 rushing yards per game.

Norries Wilson made history when he was named coach of the **Columbia** Lions (2-8, 0-7). He is the first African-American head coach in the history of Ivy League football. Wilson was the offensive coordinator at UConn for the past four seasons, where he oversaw an offense that posted 477.5 yards per game in 2003. While Wilson is enthused about taking over the Columbia program, he inherits a team that went 2-8 last season and finished the year on an eight-game losing streak. The Lions allowed 33.7 points per game and 236.4 rushing yards a game in 2005.

Buddy Teevens returned home to Hanover, N.H., in hopes of reigniting a **Dartmouth** (2-8, 1-6) program that has fallen on hard times. Teevens has a largely veteran team that includes 10 returning starters on offense and seven on defense.

PREDICTIONS

1. Duquesne
2. Marist
3. La Salle
4. Iona
5. St. Peter's

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Obozua Ehikioya**, RB, Marist
Defense	**Ryan Esdale**, DL, Duquesne
Newcomer	**Chris Ferguson**, WR, Marist

GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: Marist @ Duquesne

The Dukes enter 2006 with a 37-game MAAC winning streak. An improving Marist team has the best shot of breaking their dominance.

No doubting dominating Duquesne, as Dukes go for eighth straight crown

By **STEVE AMEDIO**
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Death, taxes and Duquesne football.

When it comes to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, the Dukes are about as certain as it gets. Winners of seven straight league titles, there isn't any reason at all to think that streak won't continue to grow in 2006.

The team seemed slightly vulnerable a year ago with some inexperienced players stepping up and a first-year coach, Jerry Schmitt, taking over the program. But Duquesne dominated the MAAC like it always does, running up another perfect record against league opponents and finishing 7-3 overall.

This season the Dukes have 14 starters back, including every offensive skill-position player. Schmitt answered any questions about his return to the program where he once served as an assistant by being named the 2005 MAAC Coach of the Year.

Just how dominant is **Duquesne** (4-0 MAAC) at its level? The Dukes come into the season having won 37 straight conference games, the longest active streak in the nation and third all-time among schools at the Division I-A and I-AA levels, behind only the 44-game streak of Oklahoma (Big Eight) from 1952-59 and the 39-game streak by Nebraska (Big Eight/Big 12) from 1992-98.

Offensively, quarterback Scott Knapp, who won the 2005 MAAC Offensive Rookie of the Year after passing for 1,337 yards and 10 TDs as a redshirt freshman, is back and healthy. He missed the final three games of last season with a shoulder injury. Knapp's backup, sophomore Kevin Rombach, was nearly as effective, leading the Dukes to back-to-back victories in their final two contests.

Also returning are the tailback tandem of seniors James Jacobs and Jeremy McCullough (who had a combined 970 yards and 10 TDs in 2005) and sophomore fullback Greg Hough.

Duquesne brings back 10 of its 12 leaders in receptions from last season, including junior Alex Roberson (31 catches, 504 yards) and senior Dan Spriggs (27, 419).

The key areas of concern are on both lines. Duquesne lost three starters on the offensive line, while two linemen and two linebackers graduated from a defensive unit that was ranked first in Division I-AA last season for total defense, rushing defense and pass-efficiency defense.

"We'd like to keep the streak going, but our first goal is to win the conference," Schmitt says. "So, I guess the two kind of fall hand-in-hand."

Marist (7-4, 3-1) has been solid for several years, but took a step beyond that in 2005, matching a program record for victories in a season. Whether the Red Foxes can take another step forward and provide a legitimate challenge to Duquesne likely depends on one major question: Who replaces graduated quarterback James Luft?

The Red Foxes didn't have another signal-caller who threw a pass last season. Senior Michael Sangiorgi probably gets a look, as will several younger and inexperienced possibilities. There aren't any questions about the team's running game, though, not with returning junior Obozua Ehikioya (1,017 yards, 17 TDs), one of five MAAC players named to the 2005 I-AA Mid-Major All-America Team.

Whoever does wind up at QB will have a quality target in wide receiver Prince Prempeh (27 catches, 361 yards). All but one of the starting offensive linemen return, as does the nucleus of a strong defense led by lineman Tim Aulet (36 tackles, 6 sacks) and safeties Huck Correia (a 2005 first-team All-MAAC pick) and Nick Salis.

The spread offense produced big offensive numbers last year for **La Salle** (4-7, 2-2) in every place but in the win column. It remains to be seen if the Explorers will play a more traditional style under new Coach Tim Miller, who comes on board after former Coach Phil Longo and top assistant Peter Lue left to become assistants at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Not only have the program's top two coaches departed, but so too has the MAAC's 2005 Offensive Player of the Year, quarterback Michael Jump (2,607 yards, 22 TDs), who told school officials he would be transferring this summer. Also, at press time, La Salle was the only Division I-A or I-AA team that had not released its schedule.

Obozua Ehikioya, Marist

Whatever the team does this season is likely to be centered around a solid ground attack featuring senior running back Kevin Sullivan, who led La Salle in rushing (105 carries, 610 yards) and receptions (62). The Explorers also return senior running back Josh Brumfield (62 carries, 363 yards) and receivers Bernie Cevis (26 catches, 499 yards) and senior Lou Russo (24, 239).

All-MAAC cornerbacks Mark Moraca and Randy Carpenter are back to anchor the defense.

Despite a gloomy record, there were some positive signs a year ago for **Iona** (3-7, 1-3). The Gaels lost one league contest by a point, another by a touchdown and were respectable against Duquesne, falling 31-17 to the Dukes.

Whether Iona can reverse some of those close losses will depend on the progress of junior quarterback Michael Covino, a transfer from Fordham who will replace graduated standout Mike Biehl. The Gaels could also get a boost from a healthy return of senior running back Rudy Arcara (59 carries, 240 yards), who rushed for 1,125 yards as a sophomore in 2004.

Seniors Mike Rabbit and Chris Berg key the offensive line, and the Gaels have have an All-MAAC placekicker in Chris Lofrese, who made all four field goals he tried and was 19-of-20 on PATs. Defensively, senior linebacker Adam Lipski was a first-team All-MAAC pick last season, while junior lineman James McDonald was a second-team selection.

Once a solid program, **St. Peter's** (1-9, 0-4) has struggled in recent years, and it was particularly painful in 2005 when the Peacocks suffered six of their losses by three touchdowns or more.

If a turnaround is in the works, it might start this year with the return of the conference's most accurate quarterback in 2005—junior Scott Bonnono, who completed 62.7 percent of his passes for 2,303 yards and 16 TDs last season. The Peacocks also have a bruising backfield in 5-10, 230-pound junior J.P. Larmore (52 carries, 270 yards) and 5-9, 215-pound senior Shaun Puluse (46, 193).

Two of Bonnono's favorite targets, sophomore Jaleel Kindell (56 catches, 525 yards) and senior John Bond (42, 745) also return. Paul Noel, a 5-11, 275-pound senior, is the top offensive lineman, while 5-10, 252-pound William Mitchell anchors the defensive line.

COURTESY MARIST COLLEGE / STOCKTONPHOTO, INC. / WWW.STOCKTONPHOTO.COM

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Alonzo Coleman**, RB, Hampton
Defense	**Justin Durant**, LB, Hampton
Newcomer	**Casey Hansen**, QB, Norfolk State

PREDICTIONS

1. Hampton
2. South Carolina State
3. Delaware State
4. Florida A&M
5. Bethune-Cookman
6. Norfolk State
7. Howard
8. Morgan State
9. North Carolina A&T

GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: Hampton @ South Carolina State

The games between these teams over the last two years have determined the MEAC title. It also matches the league's top two returning backs in Hampton's Alonzo Coleman and S.C. State's DeShawn Baker.

Hampton should make it a three in a row, but will Pirates cure their postseason woes?

By **LUT WILLIAMS**
Black College Sports Page

Hampton claimed its second consecutive MEAC title last season, and the Pirates' regular-season record of 8-0 in the MEAC and 11-0 overall was their best since moving up to I-AA in 1995. But there's one thing the Pirates didn't do and that's win a playoff game.

Despite finishing No. 2 in the final regular-season I-AA poll, Coach Joe Taylor's troops were thwarted in the first round of the national playoffs for the second straight year. Their embarrassing 38-10 loss to Richmond had to leave Taylor wondering if the formula that works in the MEAC translates to the national scene, where the Pirates are 0-4 in I-AA postseason play.

Enter Chris Beatty, a former Virginia Beach area high school coach whose wide-open offense produced numerous state-championship teams. However, offense may not be the problem. The Pirates' vaunted defense gave up 592 total yards in losing to William & Mary in the 2004 playoffs and another 251 rushing yards to Richmond.

While Hampton seeks to right its postseason wrongs, other teams may be gaining on it. South Carolina State beat everybody in the league except Hampton for the second year in a row, but was kept out of the playoffs despite a 9-2 finish. Delaware State, which handed Hampton its only conference loss in '04, made another leap forward under second-year Coach Al Lavan, posting its first winning season since 2000.

First-year Norfolk State Coach Pete Adrian had an impressive debut, leading the Spartans (4-7) to wins in three of their final four games. Former Texas A&M assistant Lee Fobbs debuts this season as the new coach at North Carolina A&T.

If the coaching staff can find better use of star running back Alonzo Coleman, perhaps it will be enough to get **Hampton** (11-1 overall, 8-0 MEAC) a playoff win. For now, Coleman's three straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons (1,326 and 19 TDs in 2005) leave him less than 250 yards away from Montrell Coley's all-time school rushing mark.

The Pirates will have to get more from quarterbacks Princeton Shepherd and Antwan Smith, who combined for just 155.4 passing yards per game. There's talent at wide receiver in Onrea Jones and Virginia Tech transfer Jeremy Gilchrist, who starred for Beatty in high school. Andrew Paterini (104 points) is the league's best placekicker.

Linebacker Justin Durant (124 tackles) repeated as MEAC Defensive Player of the Year, while up front, all-conference linemen Micah Littlejohn and Kendal Langford (4.5 sacks, 15.5 tackles for loss) are joined by tackle Marcus Dixon, who may be the best of the bunch.

It appears first-team All-MEAC quarterback Cleveland McCoy (1,692 passing yards, 13 TDs) will again lead **South Carolina State** (9-2, 7-1) in its quest to unseat Hampton. Coach Buddy Pough has brought in three new assistants and is rearranging his offensive and defensive sets, an interesting move since S.C. State had the league's second-best offensive (34.4 points per game) and defensive (15.1) numbers.

Second-team All-MEAC running back DeShawn Baker (826 yards, 10 TDs) is the returning rushing leader. Wide receivers Kelley King and Chris Burgess (4 TDs) are back as prime targets. The Bulldogs will sport perhaps the conference's most experienced offensive line, led by all-league selections in senior Clyde Reed and redshirt sophomore Raymond Harrison.

Defensive lineman Eric Turner and safety Marshall McFadden will provide leadership for a unit that lost seven starters.

Coach Al Lavan has performed a minor miracle in two years at **Delaware State** (7-4, 6-2), inheriting the team after a 1-10 campaign in 2003 and getting them to a third-place finish last year. But after losing 10 starters, he'll have to work some real magic for the Hornets to stay competitive.

Their defense ranked fifth in the nation last season (269.6 ypg), but lost most of the standouts, including linebacker Sam Smith (league-leading 13.5 sacks) and punter Eric Contos (44.2-yard average).

Redshirt-freshman QB Vashon Winton (1,489 passing yards, 8 TDs) was the 2005 MEAC Rookie of the Year, and his favorite target, wideout Shaheer McBride (720 yards, 6 TDs), was a 2005 first-team All-MEAC pick. Senior Emmanuel Marc is expected to be the new starter at tailback.

Florida A&M (6-5, 5-3) had a somewhat successful season under new Coach Rubin Carter, which was more impressive since he was hired 46 days before the first game of 2005. In eight games, QB Albert Chester set a new FAMU record for passing accuracy (71.8 percent) and was the MVP in the season-ending Florida Classic. Replacing 1,000-yard rusher Rashard Pompey will fall to either Anthony Edwards and Greg Arline. Roosevelt Kiser (league-leading 64 receptions) is also back.

All-conference pick Tyrone McGriff (6.5 sacks) and Joseph Wims are solid ends on a defensive unit that lost seven starters. Wesley Taylor led all I-AA teams in punting (45.9 average).

Bethune-Cookman (7-4, 4-4) fell to fifth in the conference last year, due in part to losses by just three points to both S.C. State and Florida A&M.

Linebacker Taurean Charles and safety Travis Roland head up a unit that was third in the conference in red-zone defense. Free safety Bobbie Williams' six interceptions tied for third best among all I-AA players.

Quarterback Jimmie Russell had a combined 1,761 yards and 17 TDs to earn second-team All-MEAC. He returns to lead the league's best scoring offense (34.9 ppg) in 2005. Another double threat, wideout Eric Weems (1,011 yards and 14 TDs), is back for his senior year. Untested Chauncey Hampton will get the first look at tailback.

During his time as an assistant at Bethune-Cookman, **Norfolk State** Coach Pete Adrian was known to build strong defenses. In his first year with the Spartans (4-7, 2-6), he helped the team win more games in 2005 than the previous two years combined.

Returning starters such as All-MEAC tight end Jonathan Allen will help the Spartans. Former Colorado State QB Casey Hansen will replace Brandon Brooks (1,600 yards, 12 TDs). Linebacker Maguell Davis, the conference's second-leading tackler (120) last year, spearheads the defense.

Ray Petty's first order of business at **Howard** (4-7, 1-7) is changing an offense that was last in the conference for scoring (15.7 ppg)—a job complicated by an inexperienced O-line and four unproven youngsters who will battle for the QB job.

As usual, the Bison defense (255.7 ypg) was the league's toughest. Six of the front seven starters are back. The Bison also have a strong weapon in running back Keon Coleman (770 yards).

Morgan State (2-9, 1-7) has the exact opposite problem of Howard. Coach Donald Hill's offense scored 22.5 points per game, but the defense gave up 34.1, worst in the league. Byron Selby was the only MEAC quarterback to top 2,000 passing yards last year.

North Carolina A&T (3-8, 2-6) embarks on a new era as longtime Division I-A assistant Lee Fobbs takes over for George Small. Fobbs inherits a team that dropped its last five games a year ago and lost most of its standout players. Senior running back Brandon Sweeney (877 yards, 8 TDs) is the top returnee on offense. Linebacker Montray Jackson had eight sacks in '05.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEC

PREDICTIONS

1. Albany
2. St. Francis (Pa.)
3. Stony Brook
4. Central Connecticut State
5. Monmouth
6. Wagner
7. Sacred Heart
8. Robert Morris

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Michael Caputo**, WR, St. Francis (Pa.)
Defense	**Colin Disch**, LB, Albany
Newcomer	**Dale Fink**, QB, Sacred Heart

GAME TO WATCH: 10/21/06: St. Francis @ Albany

Powered by prolific passing, St. Francis is poised to take a huge step forward this year, but will be tested by Albany's strong defense.

Great Danes' non-league schedule should sharpen their bite for conference foes

By **STEVE AMEDIO**
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

The University at Albany's football program doesn't exactly back away from challenges.

The Great Danes traditionally play one of the toughest non-league schedules of any Northeast Conference team, and this year is no exception with Cornell, Delaware, Fordham and Lehigh on their slate.

But if Albany survives those early battles, it should be better prepared when it returns to the competition of its own league, at least in theory.

It usually works in practice, too. The Danes have either won outright or shared the NEC crown two of the past four years. They just missed last season, finishing a game behind co-champions Central Connecticut State and Stony Brook. All three of those teams will challenge for the NEC this season, along with potential surprise St. Francis (Pa.).

With 17 returning starters, **Albany** (5-6 overall, 4-3 NEC) looks more than capable not only of returning to the top of the NEC, but maybe being competitive in its non-league schedule, too.

The Danes headed into spring practice without being set at quarterback, but have two solid and experienced candidates. Sophomore Daniel Bocanegra and senior Brett Hall each started games last year.

Whoever starts at QB will be protected by some massive linemen, including 6-6, 300-pound senior Jacob Anderson, an All-NEC pick last season. The running game is solid with a one-two tailback punch of Marcus Allen (594 rushing yards in 2005) and Omar Johnson (385), and 6-2, 230-pound fullback Dan Beigel. A strong receiving group also returns, led by Irani DeAraujo (34 catches, 368 yards).

Defensively, junior linebacker Colin Disch was named the NEC's top defender last year, recording more than 100 tackles for the second straight season. Ahead of him in the defensive alignment are All-NEC linemen Andre Coleman (6-4, 290 pounds) and Michael Dungey (6-2, 275).

This could be the year that **St. Francis (Pa.)** comes of age in the NEC. The Red Flash (3-8, 3-4) set a school record for conference wins last season, and figure to be even better this time around. St. Francis has all 11 starters back from a unit that produced prolific offensive numbers last season, as well as seven defensive starters and both kickers returning.

The offensive attack centers around senior wide receivers Michael Caputo (92 catches, 1,433 yards) and Luke Palko (85, 812), who ranked first and third, respectively, in receptions on the I-AA level. Caputo, who was No. 3 overall in receiving yards, set single-season league records for receptions and receiving yards.

Senior quarterback Anthony Doria connected on 252 of 409 attempts last season for 2,895 yards. The attack is balanced by senior running back Todd Harris, who rushed for 1,052 yards on 204 carries in 2005. Junior linebackers Louis Beninato (73 tackles last year) and Fehi Seveio (70) and senior safety Chad Ignatz (66) are the top returnees on defense.

Stony Brook (6-5, 5-2) shared the NEC title in the last season of Coach Sam Kornhauser's 22-year career, but new head man Chuck Priore (who played at Albany and began his coaching career there) needs to find some fresh offensive faces if he hopes to duplicate last season.

The Seawolves lose three of their starting five offensive linemen, along with their top running back. Back, though, are some key pieces, including redshirt-junior quarterback Josh Dudash (2,112 yards, 18 TDs) and some of his favorite targets, including senior Josh Anderson (51 catches, 750 yards).

Ten of 11 starters return on a defensive unit that held two opponents to a touchdown or less last year. Among the top returnees are linebacker Dan Michitsch, safety Richie Richards and defensive end Chris Merkle, who tied for second on the team in tackles last season as a freshman.

Defending NEC co-champ **Central Connecticut State** (7-4, 5-2) not only has a new coach in Jeff McInerney, but also replaced all but one on the entire coaching staff. However, the Blue Devils have plenty of returning experience on the field, starting with sophomore QB Aubrey Norris, last season's NEC Offensive Rookie of the Year. Norris passed for 917 yards and ran for an additional 330.

McInerney also has one of the league's top running backs in second-team All-NEC pick Jo Jo Freeman (162 rushes, 801 yards) and a strong receiver in senior Andre Smith (31 catches, 393 yards). Up front, 6-2, 315-pound senior Rich Ranglin and 6-2, 250-pound senior Eben Blanchard open holes.

Central Connecticut State also has last season's Defensive NEC Rookie of the Year in defensive back Anthony Wilson, who is part of what might be the league's top secondary, along with seniors Nigel Monge and Farod Muhammad. The Blue Devils did suffer significant graduation losses on both sides of the ball, including four players who were either first- or second-team all-league performers in 2005.

Monmouth (6-4, 4-3) also saw multiple players graduate, including Miles Austin, one of the NEC's top receivers last season, and four other first- or second-team All-NEC picks. The Hawks do return senior quarterback Brian Boland (2,334 yards and 21 TDs) and senior wide receiver Adam San Miguel, whose 51 catches led the team last season.

Also back on offense is junior tight end John Nalbone and 6-5, 250-pound offensive lineman Matt Connolly. Senior Mike Castellano is one of the best defensive players in the league, as is senior DB Matt Hicks. That duo should be enough to keep the Hawks more than competitive again this season.

Wagner (6-5, 3-4) has plenty returning from a year ago and could compete for league honors if it can find a replacement for graduated quarterback John Sciarra, who last year became the first player in NEC history to pass for more than 3,000 yards.

Sophomores Matt Abbey and Thomas Hammell were the backup QBs last year, but only threw five combined passes. The Seahawks have plenty of weapons otherwise, starting with senior wideout Chris Turner (66 catches, 952 yards) and junior Joseph Kinard (46, 504), the league's top tight end. Junior defensive backs Alfred Phillips, who led the conference in interceptions and pass breakups, and Jason Butler provide solid pass coverage.

Sacred Heart (4-6, 3-4) suffered through its first losing season last year since 1999, but has a chance of avoiding another one if its aerial attack continues to click. Senior quarterback Tyler Arciaga (2,394 yards) is back, along with receivers Alvin Franklin (31 catches, 405 yards) and Joey Henley (23, 383) and junior tight end Justin Jarry. Henley is a rare three-sport athlete who is also a standout for the Sacred Heart basketball and track teams. Seven of last season's 11 starters return for the Pioneers, led by 6-4, 235-pound senior defensive lineman William Hayden (56 tackles last season).

Former NEC power **Robert Morris** (2-8, 1-6) wasn't that far removed from a .500 season last year, suffering five of its losses by a touchdown or less. But the loss of seniors, including Tyjuan Massey and Rupert Rickards (who, respectively, rank No. 1 and No. 2 on the program's career-reception list), will make it difficult for the Colonials to climb back. Some young talent is in place, though, including sophomore quarterback Erik Cwalinski, who looked impressive in three starts last season.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Josh Greco**, QB, Eastern Kentucky
Defense	**Clint Sellers**, LB, Eastern Illinois
Newcomer	**Bobby Washington**, RB, East. Kentucky

PREDICTIONS

1. Eastern Kentucky
2. Eastern Illinois
3. Jacksonville State
4. Tennessee-Martin
5. Samford
6. Tennessee Tech
7. Southeast Missouri
8. Tennessee State
9. Murray State

Expect a real dogfight between two Eastern (Kentucky and Illinois) teams

By **MICHAEL GRANT**
The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

GAME TO WATCH: 10/14/06: Eastern Illinois @ Eastern Kentucky

The Colonels will be looking for revenge after suffering a 53-22 loss at Eastern Illinois last year, their only defeat in league play. It should also be a nice matchup of Eastern Kentucky's offense against the Eastern Illinois defense.

The quest for the Ohio Valley championship could come down to a two-team race. Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois both look like they will be ahead of the pack. The Colonels return 18 starters (including six all-league players) and have a powerful offense and favorable conference schedule, including a home game against Eastern Illinois. The Panthers are the OVC's reigning champion and have 16 starters back, a tough defense and what appears to be a manageable schedule.

In 2007, Austin Peay State will return to the OVC as a football-playing member. This year the Governors will transition from a non-scholarship program to scholarship football and play as a I-AA Independent. How the OVC's newest team will affect league scheduling in the future is still unknown.

After spending three years closing the gap between itself and the I-AA elite, **Eastern Kentucky** (7-4 overall, 7-1 OVC) seems poised to take the next step. Last year, the Colonels enjoyed their best season under Coach Danny Hope. This year, the program will aim for its first Ohio Valley championship and I-AA playoff appearance in nine years.

Everything starts with quarterback Josh Greco, who made significant strides as a sophomore after a shaky freshman season. The 2005 OVC Offensive Player of the Year established school single-season passing records for completions (222), attempts (387), yards (2,861) and touchdowns (25). He also piloted the league's highest-scoring offense (31.5 points per game).

Greco loses All-OVC wide receiver Andre Ralston, but will have All-America tight end Patrick Bugg (40 catches, 608 yards, 10 TDs in 2005) back. The Colonels also could have the OVC's best tailback tandem with junior Mark Dunn (939 yards, 14 TDs) and North Carolina State transfer Bobby Washington.

Eastern Illinois (9-3, 8-0) returned to the top of the OVC last season, winning its first outright league championship since 2001. Bob Spoo proved that he could still work magic, earning OVC Coach-of-the-Year honors for the second time in the last five years.

The Panthers should again be tough to beat, with nine starters returning on defense and seven on offense. Quarterback Mike Donato (9 TDs, 9 interceptions in 2005) is back, but not guaranteed to start.

The defensive line took the hardest hit with the loss of three starters, but the rest of the unit is intact. Eastern Illinois allowed the league's fewest points (19.2 per game) and had the best run defense (121.5 yards per game) last year. The Panthers will be led by the reigning OVC Defensive Player of the Year, Clint Sellers, who made 121 tackles and five interceptions from his linebacker position last season.

Jacksonville State (6-5, 6-2) has had a stranglehold on the conference since entering the league in 2003, as the Gamecocks are 20-4 in OVC play. The Ohio Valley's top rushing attack (215.3 ypg) last year should continue to roll. Clay Green (1,352, 11 TDs), the league's second-leading rusher, is back for his senior year.

However, Coach Jack Crowe believes the Gamecocks need to get the ball down the field more often. The team was last in the OVC for passing yards (145.1 per game), TD passes (8), attempts (233) and completions (119) and second worst in completion percentage (51.1). The most experienced returning quarterback is junior Matt Hardin, who threw just 27 passes in 2005.

So where does **Tennessee-Martin** (6-5, 4-4) go from here? The Skyhawks recorded just their second winning season since 1993. They also tied a school record for the most victories. But after Matt Griffin orchestrated that remarkable turnaround, he bolted to take the Murray State head-coaching position.

Enter Jason Simpson. The former Chattanooga offensive coordinator coached a unit that finished first in the Southern Conference in red-zone efficiency—scoring on 26 of 29 trips (89.7 percent)—and finished fourth in total offense (352.3 ypg). Simpson intends to install a pro-set offense and hopes to take advantage of junior tailback Don Chapman, who rushed for a league-leading 1,396 yards and 16 TDs last season.

If you're looking for a surprise team, **Samford** (5-6, 4-4) might be it. The Bulldogs have nine starters back on both offense and defense. Statistically speaking, the team returns 100 percent of its passing and rushing yards and 81 percent of the scoring.

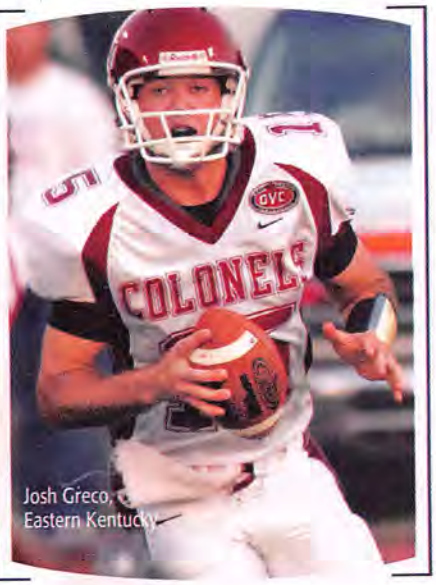
Jefferson Adcock might be the second-best quarterback in the league. As a sophomore, he passed for 2,338 yards and 18 scores. Adcock has key weapons back in running back Justin Ray and wide receiver Jeff Moore.

Despite a difficult season, Coach Mike Hennigan received a three-year contract extension at **Tennessee Tech** (4-7, 3-5) through 2009. Lee Sweeney, a transfer from Louisville, will compete against Nate Xanders, John Conrad McCrary and Stephen Britton for the starting QB job. Britton and McCrary (who sat out the spring while recovering from surgery) each saw time last season. Whoever the signal-caller is will benefit by throwing to junior Larry Shipp (50 catches, 803 yards, 8 TDs in 2005).

Southeast Missouri (2-9, 2-6) has a new coach in former Purdue assistant Tony Samuel. He has previous head-coaching experience, having led New Mexico State from 1996-2004. Samuel replaces Tim Billings, who resigned at the end of last season. The Redhawks haven't won the league since joining in 1991, and they won't this year unless the defense improves on last year's average of 34.0 points allowed per game.

In James Webster's first season as coach last year, **Tennessee State** (2-9, 1-6) collapsed down the stretch. The team will enter this season with a five-game losing streak, and all but one of those defeats came by double digits. The Tigers have two key I-A transfers who should help in quarterback Antonio Heffner (South Carolina) and receiver Mike Mason (North Carolina).

After switching OVC schools, Griffin has a big job ahead of him trying to clean up the mess at **Murray State** (2-9, 0-7). The Racers, just three seasons removed from a share of the conference title, were historically bad in 2005. Last year marked the first time since 1966 that the team was winless in league play. The best building block might be senior tailback Chad Cook, who had 635 rushing yards last year.



Josh Greco, Eastern Kentucky

COURTESY CHRIS RADCLIFFE

PREDICTIONS

1. Colgate
2. Lehigh
3. Lafayette
4. Holy Cross
5. Bucknell
6. Fordham
7. Georgetown

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Jordan Scott**, RB, Colgate
Defense	**Marcus Taylor**, LB, Fordham
Newcomer	**Josh Pastore**, RB, Lehigh

GAME TO WATCH: 11/04/06: Colgate @ Lehigh

This game could decide the Patriot League championship, as the winner has gone on to win or share the title since 1997.

Storybook Leopards seek three-peat, but Colgate should have lots to smile about

By **ED LAUBACH**
Easton (Pa.) Express-Times

Lafayette College is the warm and fuzzy story of the Patriot League. The football program nearly was jettisoned after the 1998 season until the board of trustees saved it, voting down a proposal to switch athletics to Division III. The head football coach left a year later, as did some players, and recruiting was in shambles from all the negative publicity.

In came Coach Frank Tavani seven years ago, who asked the school for time and got it, rewarding Lafayette with a winning record in 2002, then back-to-back league co-championships and appearances in the Division I-AA playoffs (2004-05). Now the Leopards are positioned for a three-peat, favored equally with Colgate and Lehigh.

"Climb Higher" is Lafayette's motto, and the Leopards must do so to win the title outright. They haven't been able to handle Colgate, losing 10 in a row to the Raiders.

The three main contenders all return experienced quarterbacks and running backs. Also, three new head coaches were hired during the offseason—Andy Coen at Lehigh, Tom Masella at Fordham and Kevin Kelly at Georgetown.

Colgate Coach Dick Biddle has been around the league long enough to know that a veteran quarterback means everything. Quarterback Mike Saraceno, a first-team all-league pick, took Biddle and the Raiders to a share of the league championship and into the I-AA playoffs. Throw in league and ECAC Rookie-of-the-Year tailback Jordan Scott (1,364 yards, 10 TDs), who started the final nine games as a freshman, and it seems only more good things are to come. The Raiders may need all the offense they can muster while the coaching staff assembles a new defensive front seven.

But the defense isn't completely devoid of experience. All-league picks Cody Williams and Geoff Bean return to the secondary. Bean is one of the country's premier punt and kick returners. And Biddle won't hesitate to play freshmen to shore up the defense.

Two league teams made the I-AA playoffs, and **Lehigh** wasn't one of them, which didn't sit well with the Mountain Hawks' loyal following. It didn't help that Lehigh also lost to bitter rival Lafayette for the second year in a row and third time in four seasons. When Coach Pete Lembo left for Elon, Lehigh didn't go far for his replacement, bringing back Andy Coen from the staff at Penn. He had been the Mountain Hawks' offensive coordinator from 1994-99.

Coen expects to have Lehigh contending for the title with a slightly different approach—a more balanced offense. The Mountain Hawks will run the ball more behind an offensive line that features center John Reese and Kent State transfer Josh Pastore. They'll block for returning scatback Marques Thompson. Lehigh came up with a real find at QB last season when an injury to its starter brought multidimensional Sedale Threatt (son of the former NBA guard) off the bench and into a starring role.

Lehigh received good news during spring practice when defensive tackle Royce Morgan decided to take a medical-hardship fifth season. Cornerback Brannan Thomas and strong safety Julian Austin also return.

Lafayette Coach Frank Tavani says he has the offensive weapons to move the ball around. They begin with QB Brad Maurer and extend to running back Jonathan Hurt, veteran receivers Joe Ort, Archie Fisher and Shaun Adair, and an offensive line that features Mike Saint Germain.

The Leopards were downright dominant on defense last year, ranking first in yards allowed per game (296.9) and points allowed (17 per game). Returning are defensive end Marvin Snipes and safeties Torian Johnson and Trey Martell. The linebacking corps took a major hit and Justin Stovall, the backup at all three positions last fall, will start in the middle.

If Coach Tom Gilmore of **Holy Cross** has his way, the Crusaders will turn the league's Big Three into the Big Four. They rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Lehigh on the road, lost to Colgate late in the game and fell by 20 points to champion Lafayette.

Gilmore expects to get plenty of mileage from his special teams, particularly cornerback Casey Gough, who returns punts and kickoffs. He averaged 33.9 yards per kickoff return last year.

The defense lost coordinator David Kotulski to Lehigh, but has eight returning starters, including Gough, linebackers Dan Adams and Chris Nielsen and end John Marcus Pinard. The Crusaders led the league in turnover margin.

On offense, the Crusaders have only three starters back. Backup QB Brian McSharry's time has arrived after two years of watching. Terrance Gass and Mike Kielt are the new running backs, while Thomas Harrison is the main receiving option.

Criticize Coach Tim Landis if you will for putting quarterbacks at risk in his offense at **Bucknell**, but he stays true to his belief that the QBs are no more susceptible to injury than any other position. And the Bison ranks were decimated on both sides of the ball, allowing younger players to get on the field. The result was a 1-10 season and winless in league games.

The upside to that is obvious—nine starters returning on offense and seven on defense. The Bison, however, remain young. Starter Terrance Wilson went down with a broken jaw in Week One and never returned, leaving the position to senior Dante Ross, a cornerback who made the switch to QB. Wilson is back, but Andrew Lair, a transfer from Navy, enters the picture. Center Joel Hoffer and left guard Stefan Niemczyk are three-year starters on the line and both fullbacks, Josh DeStefano and Kevin Mullen, return.

Linebackers Dorian Petersen and Ryan Slater, cornerback David Frisbey and free safety Stephen Collage are the defensive players to watch.

Most would think **Fordham** has a long way to go with its third head coach in four years, Tom Masella, especially after finishing 2-9 overall and sixth in the conference last season. However, Masella is confident he knows what it takes to return to the top, having been part of championship seasons as head coach at Central Connecticut State.

These Rams begin with tailback James Prydatko and linebacker Marcus Taylor. Quarterback Derric Daniels had a solid sophomore season, but his production dropped off last year. Masella feels good about his offensive line with Mike Nardone, Ricky Bencivenni and Mike Breznicky, but they allowed a league-high 43 sacks last year.

Nose tackle Eduardo Boza and defensive tackle Jay Edwards return, and Taylor and Josh Jenrette lead the linebackers.

The new coach at **Georgetown**, Kevin Kelly, sees himself as part of a football transformation that began a year ago with the hiring of Athletic Director Bernard Muir, who worked in athletics administration at Notre Dame and brought a Division I mentality to the Georgetown campus. Kelly, the special-teams coordinator and linebackers coach for four years with Navy, will have a distinct Midshipmen-like feel on both sides of the ball.

The offense is led by quarterback Nick Cangelosi. The three top wide receivers are back in Kyle Van Fleet, Sidney Baker and Kenny Mitchell. They combined for 42 catches last season.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Josh Johnson**, QB, San Diego
Defense	**Casey Klaus**, DB, Dayton
Newcomer	**John Porn**, DE, Dayton

PREDICTIONS

1. San Diego
2. Dayton
3. Drake
4. Morehead State
5. Jacksonville
6. Davidson
7. Valparaiso
8. Butler

pioneer football league

Changes abound in smaller, one-division Pioneer, but San Diego holds on to its firepower at the top

By **MATT McKENZIE**
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

GAME TO WATCH: 11/11/06: Dayton @ San Diego

This game in the last week of the season could decide the Pioneer title. It pits last year's best PFL offense (San Diego, 42.6 points per game) against the best defense (Dayton, 14.1 points allowed per game). The Toreros doubled up the Flyers last year, 48-24.

This season marks a whole new ballgame for the Pioneer Football League. With Austin Peay State leaving to become a I-AA independent this year before joining the Ohio Valley Conference in 2007, the PFL currently stands at an even eight teams. No longer will the league be broken into two divisions. And for the first time since 2001, the teams will play each other in a round-robin format.

Also announced this offseason is the creation of the Gridiron Classic, which will pit the champion of the Pioneer against the winner of the Northeast Conference in an exempted postseason game. The NEC champion will play host to this year's game (Nov. 18), with the PFL champion doing the honors in 2007.

One thing that shouldn't change this season is the continued dominance of San Diego, which captured its first Pioneer title last season by defeating Morehead State 47-40. The Toreros, winners of 13 straight games at home, are coming off the school's best season ever (11-1) and Coach Jim Harbaugh says he is out to top that mark this year.

"I have high expectations, big goals," Harbaugh says. "We have a beefed-up schedule, though last year's schedule was tough. I'm excited about taking the program to bigger levels."

Standing in the way of a repeat for San Diego are the two usual suspects in the PFL—Drake and Dayton. One of the two teams has won the league title 12 of the last 14 years.

With junior quarterback Josh Johnson back to lead the way, **San Diego** appears primed to again challenge for the Pioneer title. Johnson, the 2005 PFL North Offensive Player of the Year, led the league with 3,256 passing yards and 31 touchdowns. No other Pioneer QB had more than 2,100 yards or 20 TDs.

"I have the best quarterback in college football, in all levels of college football," Harbaugh says.

The Toreros' high-powered offense, which posted a league-leading 42.6 points a game last year, will miss wideouts Adam Hannula and Nick Garton, who ranked first and third, respectively, in PFL receiving yards. But sophomore J.T. Rogan is back after rushing for 944 yards and eight touchdowns. Junior lineman Erik Bakhtiari (12.5 tackles for loss) and senior linebacker Kyson Hawkins (64 tackles) lead the returning defensive starters.

Dayton enjoyed a 9-1 record last season, giving the program 29 straight winning seasons. But the one loss was costly, as San Diego beat the Flyers 48-24 to win the PFL North title and advance to the league's championship game. Dayton's defense was tops in the Pioneer (14.1 ppg), while the Flyers' offense (40.3) ranked second behind the Toreros.

Although the Flyers lose John Hoppe, the 2005 PFL North Defensive Player of the Year, the team could have a repeat winner in senior defensive back Casey Klaus. He led the league with six interceptions last year, returning one for a touchdown. Quarterback Kevin Hoyng returns for his senior campaign after leading the team in both passing (1,989 yards, 14 TDs) and rushing (558, 7) last season.

The two-headed monster of **Drake** is now minus one, with quarterback Connor Jostes (38 TDs the last two seasons) lost to graduation. However, two-time Mid-Major All-American Scott Phaydavong returns at running back, and looks to top last year's total of 1,550 yards, which ranked second in I-AA. Someone will have to emerge at QB to keep opposing defenses honest against the run, and it looks like a two-way battle between redshirt sophomores Cole Ingle and Derek Retherford.

Seniors James Adams, Brian Conway and Nick Ross will anchor the defense. Last year, the trio combined for 32 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks and two interceptions. Adams was an All-PFL selection.

The last two games in 2005 didn't go the way Coach Matt Ballard and **Morehead State** would have liked. First, the Eagles were pummeled 63-17 by Georgia Southern in the final regular-season contest, and then were unable to get a game-tying score on their final drive in the PFL Championship Game, falling to San Diego 47-40.

Junior QB Brian Yost was named the PFL South Offensive Player of the Year, but has struggled at times with turnovers. His 14 interceptions last year tied for most in the league. Senior fullback Jabari McGee has led the team in rushing the last two seasons, while the defense will take a hit with the loss of defensive back Kwesi Williams, who compiled 155 tackles and nine interceptions over the last two years.

Due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, **Jacksonville** had to cancel its first two games last year and start the season three weeks late. The Dolphins were on their way to close out the season strong, but saw a three-game winning streak halted when they lost their last regular-season game to NAIA Webber International. However, JU's 4-4 record was just the second time the team has finished .500 or better in school history.

Chris Horton showed signs of improvement in his first full season as a starting QB, with the junior throwing for a career-high 303 yards and two TDs against Webber International. The Dolphins ranked third in the PFL for total defense (307.8 yards per game) and return six starters, but they must replace linebacker Brandon Torre, the school's all-time leader in tackles.

Even though Tripp Merritt's first season as coach of **Davidson** saw some growing pains, the Wildcats were able to double 2004's win total of two. Quarterback Ryan Alexander replaced Beaux Jones as the starter in the first game and never looked back, finishing second in the Pioneer with 199.1 passing yards a game. Merritt would like Alexander to cut down on his TD/INT ratio, which was 15/12 last season. The Wildcats could also use some help on the ground, as they scored just seven rushing TDs in 2005. Linebacker Alex Arinsmier, the 2005 PFL South Defensive Player of the Year, will be missed, but the Wildcats return defensive linemen Will Funderburg and Kyle Kinsell, both all-league picks.

Valparaiso saw its slide continue in 2005, as the team has now endured four losing seasons in the last five years. The Crusaders won their first game in 2005, then lost seven of the next eight, sealing a disappointing season. A bright spot was junior running back Jeff Horton, who rushed for a career-high 1,358 yards and a league-leading 10 TDs. Horton will be back, but the Crusaders need a better season from QB Ryan Doerffler, who threw nine touchdowns and a PFL-high 14 interceptions last year.

With only three wins since 2003, **Butler** hit rock bottom last year as just one of two I-AA teams to finish without a victory (0-11). The Bulldogs were last in the PFL in nearly every category, including points allowed (42.5 a game), rushing offense (92.0) and total defense (480.4). Sophomore QB T.J. Brown averaged just 55.9 yards passing a game, while junior linebacker Mike Marzotto ranked first in the league with 109 tackles.

PREDICTIONS

1. Appalachian State
2. Furman
3. Georgia Southern
4. Western Carolina
5. Chattanooga
6. Wofford
7. Elon
8. The Citadel

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Kevin Richardson**, RB, Appalachian St.
Defense	**Marques Murrell**, DE, Appalachian St.
Newcomer	**Chris Griffin**, QB, Georgia Southern

Same old story in SoCon: tons of talent for Big Three

By **MATT McKENZIE**
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

GAME TO WATCH: 10/28/06: Furman @ Appalachian State
One of I-AA's best rivalries was heightened when the Mountaineers beat Furman in the national semifinals last year. Heading into this season, ASU has won a school-record 18 straight games at home.

The Southern Conference produced its third national champion in the last seven years last December, thanks to Appalachian State's 21-16 victory over Northern Iowa in the I-AA Championship Game at Chattanooga, Tenn. It was the first title for the Mountaineers and Coach Jerry Moore, who will be entering his 18th season at ASU.

En route to the title, ASU had to overcome an injury to its star quarterback and beat longtime conference rival Furman in the semifinals. But playing a regular-season schedule in the ultra-competitive Southern helped the Mountaineers prepare for the postseason.

"If you look at it from top to bottom, it's probably the strongest [I-AA conference]," Western Carolina Coach Kent Briggs says.

In recent years, the Southern has been represented in the postseason by a combination of the conference's Big Three—Appalachian State, Georgia Southern and Furman. Those teams have made the playoffs together in five of the past seven seasons.

But the level of play is beginning to catch up with the trio, as evidenced by the Catamounts' 41-21 upset of then-No. 2 Furman and Wofford's 21-17 win over Georgia Southern last season.

"I think the gap is closing," Briggs says. "We had a big win over Furman last year, so it's evident we're making progress. You want all the schools to be competitive. For us, it was a big jump. We're knocking at the door and it's time to open it."

Big holes need to be filled among the Big Three, with Appalachian State and Furman playing new quarterbacks and Georgia Southern Coach Brian VanGorder taking over for Mike Sewak, who was fired during the offseason.

But with All-America defensive end Marques Murrell leading the way, look for Appalachian State to repeat as Southern champions and make a legit run at a second straight national title.

Despite losing stars in quarterback Richie Williams and defensive end Jason Hunter, **Appalachian State** has enough horses in the stable to win another Southern title. Williams, the 2005 SoCon Offensive Player of the Year, left ASU with 8,575 career total yards, 137 short of the league's all-time lead. He suffered a ruptured tendon in his left ankle during the I-AA semifinal game against Furman, thrusting backup Trey Elder into the starting spot. Elder was 12-of-17 with a touchdown against the Paladins, and then started the national championship game.

The Mountaineers also return all-conference performers in running back Kevin Richardson (1,433 rushing yards, 19 rushing TDs) and tight end Daniel Bettis, who had a team-leading eight receiving touchdowns. Appalachian will miss Hunter (101 tackles, 12 sacks), but returns 2005 Buck Buchanan Award finalist Marques Murrell, who led the Southern in sacks (13), tackles for loss (26.5) and forced fumbles (7). All-conference senior Corey Lynch (6 interceptions) anchors the secondary for a defense that allowed just 18.8 points a game in 2005.

It's Year One of A.I. (After Ingle) for **Furman**, which saw both its star quarterback and punter leave in the form of Ingle Martin (league-leading 2,959 passing yards, 20 TDs). Martin was chosen in the fifth round of the NFL Draft by Green Bay. Paladins Coach Bobby Lamb will turn the reins over to junior Renaldo Gray, who completed 10 of 27 passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns in limited duty last season. Junior running back Jerome Felton's 18 rushing TDs ranked third in the league last year, but he loses three prime offensive-line components in All-Americans Corey Stewart (guard) and Patrick Covington (center) and All-SoCon guard Brian Laggis.

The Paladins have six of their starting front seven back on defense. Junior cornerback Austin Holmes, who led the league with 11 passes broken up and added four INTs, is among the top returnees.

Brian VanGorder arrives as the new coach at **Georgia Southern**, and with him comes an entirely new plan. Gone is the triple-option attack that Eagles fans have been accustomed to. In its place is a high-powered multiple set, designed to put the ball in the air early and often. Junior Jayson Foster, who was the team's quarterback last year and led the league in rushing TDs (21), has been moved to wide receiver. Redshirt freshman Chris Griffin beat out transfer Zach Stanford in the spring for the starting QB job.

The Eagles lose three-time all-conference running back Jermaine Austin, who led the Southern last season with 1,546 rushing yards. Taking his place will likely be either Lynon Jefferson or Marquice Maynard.

VanGorder is also implementing a new 4-3 scheme on defense. The Eagles were second to last in the conference for total defense last year, giving up 388.8 yards a game.

If you're looking for a I-AA sleeper team this season, **Western Carolina** may be the answer. The Catamounts bring back most of their offensive skill players, including quarterback Justin Clark (1,253 passing yards), running back Darius Fudge and wideouts J.C. Brown and Michael Hines. Brown and Hines ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, in the Southern for receiving yards a game in 2005.

Western's defense gave up a league-low 24 TDs last year. Senior Mitchell Dukes topped all Southern defensive backs in sacks (6.5), while defensive lineman Felipe Foster was an all-league pick.

Chattanooga was last in the league for points allowed per game (30.8) last season. That was down from 2004's bloated total of 48.1, so things are heading in the right direction. On offense, the Mocs return All-SoCon picks in running back Eldra Buckley (1,233 yards, 11 TDs), wide receiver Emanuel Hassell (548 yards) and kicker Esteban Lopez. Junior quarterback Antonio Miller threw a league-high 14 interceptions last year, but ranked fourth in SoCon total offense.

Wofford was in the SoCon hunt for most of the 2005 season until the Terriers lost two of their final three games. Quarterback Josh Collier is back for his second season as a starter, but needs improvement, as the junior averaged just 56.1 passing yards a game. Sophomore Dane Romero was recruited as a QB, but will move to running back to replace the graduated Gabriel Jackson.

Elon failed to win a conference game (0-7) for the first time since joining the Southern three years ago. Part of the reason was the Phoenix's league-low average of just 15.8 points per game. In the offseason, Paul Hamilton resigned as coach and was replaced by Pete Lembo, who was head coach at Lehigh.

Hamilton's son, Kye, was the starting QB last year, but left the team after his father's dismissal. Redshirt sophomore Wes Pope, who will convert back to quarterback after switching to tight end last year, looks to have the inside track after spring ball. All-America linebacker Chad Nkang has led the league in tackles the last two seasons, including a career-high 152 last year.

In his first year as coach, Kevin Higgins saw **The Citadel** end its season on a good note, as the Bulldogs won their final two games. However, the team still hasn't enjoyed a winning record since 1992, and has finished second to last in the SoCon for both scoring offense (17.6 ppg) and defense (28.7). Junior QB Duran Lawson, who missed the Bulldogs' last six games after injuring his knee, sat out the spring while still recovering from surgery. The Citadel returns two weapons in tailback Nuru Goodrum (800 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Ta'Mar Jernigan.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Joseph Tobias**, RB, Nicholls State
Defense	**Tory Collins**, DT, Northwestern State
Newcomer	**Jay Lucas**, RB, Southeastern Louisiana

PREDICTIONS

1. Nicholls State
2. Texas State
3. McNeese State
4. Northwestern State
5. Sam Houston State
6. Stephen F. Austin
7. Southeastern Louisiana

Once a league doormat, Nicholls State now looks to stay on top in the SLC

By **BILL SMITH**
Street & Smith's Correspondent

Who knew the most important factor on the sports page could be the weather forecast?

While the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the I-A schools were well-documented, no conference in America suffered a greater blow than the I-AA Southland. Almost half the football membership took direct hits on their campuses, and the entire league was touched by the flow of evacuees. Only two of the seven member schools played a complete 11-game schedule. McNeese State took the worst hit, playing only nine after Rita plowed over the Lake Charles, La., area.

By season's end, two schools on opposite ends of the disaster came away the co-champions. After years of searching for their identity, they've finally awakened the echoes of the small-college football's glory days in San Marcos, Texas. Harkening to when the Bobcats dominated Division II, Texas State came within a possession of reaching the I-AA championship game last season. Nicholls State rallied after the hurricanes and reopened its campus to tie TSU for the title, taking the automatic bid by virtue of handing the Bobcats their only I-AA regular-season loss.

A large percentage of top players were seniors last season, placing a premium on recruiting for the 2006 campaign. Texas State did the most work in the transfer market, but no one matches Southeastern Louisiana for sheer volume—with a whopping 32 newcomers for the upcoming year. If the season comes down to a rematch of last year, the advantage goes to TSU as the host of Nicholls State. With only six league games and a very even talent base across the conference, small differences could also tip the title to a team like McNeese.

In the end, the team that finds a quarterback first may win it all. Bucking the trend of pass-happy I-AA, almost all the SLC teams are ground-heavy this fall.

All the national headlines went to nearby institutions, but in the quiet of the bayous, **Nicholls State** fulfilled its own hurricane destiny. Perhaps it was the old-school nature of the Colonels—a run-oriented team built around local prep talent—that made them somewhat unexciting as Coach Jay Thomas put them in the I-AA playoffs for the first time since 1996.

The Colonels have the best rushing combo in the league with SLC Newcomer-of-the-Year Joseph Tobias (109 carries, 718 yards, 7 TDs) and junior Broderick Cole (156, 717, 13).

For all the returning talent at running back, Thomas must replace the heart of the Colonels' option attack, rushing quarterback Yale Vannoy, to keep the NSU ground game rolling. No one else threw a pass last year, and four quarterbacks took a turn in the spring with no resolution heading into the fall.

As a result, expect the Colonels to rely heavily on their seven returning starters on defense. The other obstacle for Nicholls is that no one will overlook the former doormat as the SLC co-champion tries to repeat.

There are three items on Coach David Bailiff's task list at **Texas State**. Replacing Barrick Nealey is job one, and backup QB Chase Wasson brings experience from the past two seasons, plus a strong spring performance to the table. If Wasson falters, a stable of potential starters (Purdue transfer David Ramirez and redshirt freshman Bradley George) are waiting in the wings.

The second task for Bailiff is integrating the Bobcats' I-A transfers—former South Florida kicker Kyle Bronson, Oklahoma State running back Greg Gold, Utah State wide receiver Cameron Luke and Arkansas wideout Rick Culbert—into the mix.

If that comes together and the Bobcats can offset the loss of 27 seniors and seven offensive starters, they will be among the favorites for the Southland trophy.

GAME TO WATCH: 11/04/06: Nicholls State @ Texas State

The rematch of an overtime thriller that decided the SLC title last year may not crown the 2006 champion, but it is guaranteed to affect the playoff fate of the two new power teams of the league.

But for the final step to the title game, TSU must plug the gaping holes in the trenches. The offensive line lacks depth, while the defense lost the league's Defensive Player of the Year and three other first-team players in the front seven. Arizona State transfer Mark Washington and sophomore Mike Rutledge are the keys to fixing the defensive front, while starting senior cornerback Walter Musgrove and safety Gary Shepard provide experience in the secondary.

McNeese State continues to rebuild to the level it's known for—having more Division I-AA playoff appearances than any other two SLC members combined. Coach Tommy Tate's team was young last season, lacking offensive punch and porous on defense. Redshirt freshman Derrick Fourroux emerged in the spring as a contender with sophomore Mark Fontenot (56-of-113, 791 yards, 5 TDs) for the starting spot at quarterback.

The top offensive threat is SLC Freshman-of- the-Year placekicker Blake Bercegeay, whose foot produced over a fourth of the anemic Cowboys' points last season.

The Cowboys return more on defense than offense, led by All-SLC second-team selections in linebacker Trey Bennett, cornerback Jonathan Walker and safety Jamelle Juneau.

This season at **Northwestern State** is brought to you by the letter "D." The Demons return more in the way of key defensive players than any other SLC team, and the ability to stop opponents may be the key to a dark-horse run at the title for Coach Scott Stoker. Disappointment was the emotion of every game day last season, as the highly touted offense did not produce.

The "Purple Swarm" defense can take the pressure off the retooling offense, though. Tory Collins earned All-America honors last season at defensive tackle, and first-team all-conference choice Ed Queen and Russ Washington also return. Ricky Joe Meeks (31-of-51, 302 yards, 1 TD) is set to take over at quarterback—a fact in and of itself that gives NSU a nod over the rest of the league—but his effectiveness rides on the protection given by a young offensive line. Senior Derrick Doyle is poised to break Northwestern's career receiving records this fall, and headlines a corps of able receivers for Meeks.

Sam Houston State has the one thing the rest of the SLC wants: a glut of quarterback talent. Last year's part-time starters, senior Wade Pate (66-of-123, 883 yards, 6 TDs) and Texas Tech transfer Phillip Daugherty (106-of-183, 1,196, 8) return, along with former Oklahoma player Noah Allen. Pate established himself at the top of the depth chart.

The emergence of running back Andrew Audelin after a transition year from Dodge City (Kan.) Community College rounds out an improved offense.

It's hard to vault the Bearkats from next-to-last place into contender status, but Coach Todd Whitten has a team with the potential to pull it off.

Translating non-conference success into Southland wins was almost impossible last season for **Stephen F. Austin**. While 5-6 overall, the Lumberjacks had just one SLC victory thanks to poor performances on defense. Coach Robert McFarland hopes to improve the league's worst defense (allowing 34.5 ppg) by adding more presence up front. A strong secondary includes All-America safety Keldrick Holman and senior Freddie Parish.

For a year filled with turmoil on and off the field at **Southeastern Louisiana**, it was a real achievement that the Lions posted any conference wins (2) in their inaugural Southland campaign. With 32 newcomers this season, second-year Coach Dennis Roland welcomes a new backfield of transfers who dominated in the spring—former Texas A&M tailback Jay Lucas and ex-Ole Miss fullback Kendrick Perry.

SWAC

PREDICTIONS

EAST
1. Alabama A&M
2. Mississippi Valley State
3. Alcorn State
4. Alabama State
5. Jackson State

WEST
1. Grambling State
2. Southern
3. Prairie View A&M
4. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
5. Texas Southern

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Aries Nelson**, QB, Mississippi Valley St.
Defense	**Johnny Baldwin**, LB, Alabama A&M
Newcomer	**Alex Engram**, QB, Alabama State

Despite loss of graduated star Eugene, Grambling still has look of a winner

By **LUT WILLIAMS**
Black College Sports Page

It's a shame that 2005 Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Grambling State didn't get a chance to show its wares in the I-AA playoffs. The high-scoring Tigers (44.1 points per game) certainly made a shambles of the race in their own conference. Behind record-setting senior quarterback Bruce Eugene, the Tigers went undefeated in league play en route to taking the West Division title and beating the East Division's best team, Alabama A&M, 89-6 over two games, including a 45-6 thrashing in the seventh SWAC Championship Game in Birmingham.

But as long as games like the December title contest and the Bayou Classic are played after the I-AA playoffs begin, you won't be seeing any SWAC teams in the postseason. The Classic, which annually draws nearly 70,000 fans to the New Orleans Superdome on Thanksgiving weekend, switched to Houston's Reliant Stadium last season because of damage to the dome from Hurricane Katrina, and still drew more than 50,000 fans. That game, televised nationally by NBC, was a showcase for Eugene, who tied the single-season mark for touchdown passes (56) and finished second in career passing yards (13,492) and as the career I-AA leader in TD passes (140).

Grambling has enough leftover talent to again battle with Southern for the West Division crown, but the East may have a new representative. Defending champ A&M is the favorite, but look for strong challenges from Mississippi Valley State and Alcorn State.

EAST DIVISION

There was evidence last season that **Alabama A&M** (9-3 overall, 7-2 SWAC in 2005), the league's perennial defensive leader, was making progress on the offensive end. Running back Nic Luke ran for 819 yards and eight TDs, while QB Kelcy Luke finished fifth in passing yards per game (167.7) and total offense (212.3 yards per game). They'll both return this year along with promising transfer Brunel Flowers.

The defense was once again the best in the league, surrendering only 300.3 yards and 18.7 points per game, but three starters on the line have graduated. All-SWAC linebacker Johnny Baldwin is now the ringleader on defense.

The next step in the evolution of fifth-year Coach Willie Totten and senior QB Aries Nelson at **Mississippi Valley State** (6-5, 5-4) could result in a division title, as the Delta Devils return 10 starters on both sides.

As a junior, Nelson completed 57.1 percent of his passes for 2,942 yards and 17 TDs. With first-team All-SWAC receiver Tyrone Timmons (62 receptions, 1,059 yards, 8 TDs) and Shang Moore back along with the team's top two rushers (Walter Burnette and John Hagett), Nelson should have plenty of weapons at his disposal. Linebacker Tyler Knight earned conference Defensive-Player-of-the-Year honors as a junior.

Alcorn State (6-5, 5-4) led the SWAC in rushing in 2005, thanks to a consistent offensive line that opened holes for league rushing leader Jeremy McCoy (1,130 yards, 6.1 yards per carry, 5 TDs) and limited pressure on freshman QB Tony Hobson (1,506 passing yards, 10 TDs). Coach Johnny Thomas has to replace the right side of that line to ensure continued production from those playmakers. First-team all-conference wideout Charlie Spiller (who also returned two kickoffs for touchdowns), first-team All-SWAC tight end Tabari Lott and dangerous wide receiver Nate Hughes, who was out with a shoulder injury after last year's season opener, are equally capable of making plays. The defense returns the league's sack leader in end Martin Jackson.

GAME TO WATCH: 09/09/06: Grambling State @ Alabama A&M
Grambling smashed Alabama A&M twice last year, once in the SWAC title game. A&M gets an early chance to show if they've closed the gap.

A four-game losing streak at the end of last season prevented **Alabama State** (6-5, 6-3) from making its third straight trip to the SWAC title game and brought an end to an era of unmatched brilliance for the Hornets. Coach Charles Coe lost a three-year starter at QB (Tavaris Jackson) and rushers who accounted for 5,577 career yards and 56 TDs (Keldrick Williams and Robert Randolph). The road back may begin with Western Michigan transfer QB Alex Engram.

An outstanding 90-26 record in 10 years at Tuskegee had **Jackson State** (2-9, 2-7) fans hoping new Coach Rick Comegy could hit the ground running and quickly end the Tigers' three-year slide into mediocrity. Comegy obliged by signing over 50 recruits—a mixture of junior-college transfers, Division I-A transfers and high school players—many of whom will get a chance to play right away. The most hyped of the signees are two-time juco All-America QB Jimmy Oliver and former Ole Miss tailback Jamal Pittman.

WEST DIVISION

Seven All-SWAC seniors led the way for **Grambling State** (11-1, 9-0) to win its fourth SWAC title since 2000. A deep pool of talented players will now get a chance to extend that domination. Brandon Landers (2,283 yards, 18 TDs in 2004) saw time his freshman year at QB while Bruce Eugene was nursing a knee injury, but did not play last season. He'll be back to lead an offense that includes wide receivers Clyde Edwards (54 receptions, 1,015 yards, 10 TDs) and Tim Abney.

Ruben Mayes is the holdover at fullback and will likely be joined by running back Landry Carter (6.3 yards per carry). Second-team All-SWAC tackle Andre´ Bennett (6-6, 350) leads a number of similar-sized behemoths on the offensive line.

Defensive backs Zaire Wilborn, DeMichael Dizer and Greg Fassitt are the strength of the defense.

The continuing development of junior quarterback J.C. Lewis and a young offensive line appear to be the keys to **Southern** (4-5) regaining its swagger after suffering the first losing season in Coach Pete Richardson's 13-year tenure. Lewis had 19 TD passes and only seven interceptions last year while completing a league-best 63.5 percent of his passes for 2,496 yards. The Jaguars are thin in the D-line and secondary.

Prairie View A&M (5-6, 3-6) passed Texas Southern in the West Division standings in 2004 and tied Arkansas-Pine Bluff for third in '05. Coach Henry Frazier has 10 returning starters on both offense and defense. Hakeem Muhammad, a defensive back who was SWAC Newcomer of the Year in 2005, and junior running back Arnell Fontenot (849 yards) are the standouts. Frazier will choose between Mark Spivey and Chris Gibson to replace two-year starter Michael Hill at QB and must improve on the team's league-worst 100.6 passing yards per game.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff (3-8, 3-6) took a step back in Coach Mo Forte's second season. A year after coming within one win of a spot in the title game, the Golden Lions got off to an 0-4 start and never factored into the division race. SWAC Freshman-of-the-Year Mickey Dean (712 yards, 11 TDs) is a bright spot at running back.

Coach Steve Wilson made progress in his second season at **Texas Southern** (1-10, 1-8), though it was not reflected in the team's record. The Tigers lost two games by three points, two others by single digits and they got their only win over East Division champ Alabama A&M.

Wilson got a great year out of his son, running back Brent Wilson, who was one of only two SWAC rushers to top 1,000 yards in 2005.

Tigers welcome company in I-AA indy ranks

By **MATT McKENZIE**
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

Last year, Savannah State was the lone independent in I-AA football. But three new teams join the Tigers in that category this season, although possibly only briefly.

Both Austin Peay State (Ohio Valley) and Central Arkansas (Southland) are in a transition of moving to new conferences. This year, those programs will be classified as I-AA independents, but will play a schedule featuring games with many of their future conference foes.

Next season, Austin Peay and Central Arkansas will be full-fledged members of their leagues. Winston-Salem State has applied to the MEAC for membership, and was expected to be welcomed as the league's 10th member during the conference's annual meeting in May. Meanwhile, Savannah State continues to be without a conference, though the school has shown strong interest in joining the MEAC as well.

The I-AA independents will grow by at least two in 2007. Next year, Presbyterian will move up from Division II and eventually join the Big South, while Stony Brook is leaving the Northeast Conference.

The Governors of **Austin Peay State** leave the Pioneer Football League for a year of independence, and need to greatly improve on defense before entering OVC play in 2007.

APSU (2-9) gave up 37.5 points a game last season, ranking 110th among 116 Division I-AA teams. The Governors also allowed 233 rushing yards a contest and managed just six sacks all season. Part of the problem was the injury bug, which bit APSU hard. The Governors' leading tackler two years ago, linebacker Charlie Forte, suffered a torn meniscus, while 2005 preseason All-America defensive end Steven Young broke his right tibia. A staph infection also made its rounds among several members of the team.

Governors Coach Carroll McCray hopes a year of experience will help his young defensive unit. Defensive back Brandon Meggs led the team with four interceptions last year as a freshman, while fellow DB Gary Askew and defensive end Patrick Horton saw significant playing time in their first season with APSU. Senior Josh Hackett, who had 11.5 tackles for loss and two sacks in 2005, anchors the linebacking unit.

On offense, things are a bit brighter, as the Governors return a key weapon in junior running back Chris Fletcher. An all-conference pick last season, Fletcher rushed for 970 yards and seven touchdowns. After being Jesse Kellogg's backup the last two years, junior Mark Cunningham is set to take over as the starting QB. However, Cunningham has little experience, throwing just 49 passes so far in his career.

Last season, **Central Arkansas** tied a school record for victories in a season (11) and was a quarterfinalist in the postseason. However, that was all in Division II and the Bears' inaugural season in Division I-AA will likely provide a different result.

For one, the Bears' schedule is loaded with tough I-AA opponents such as Georgia Southern, Illinois State and UC Davis. Those three programs should give UCA an unpleasant preview before the Bears officially move to the Southland in the 2007 season.

By moving up to I-AA, Central Arkansas shouldn't expect a repeat of last year's offensive performance, when it averaged 40.2 points a contest. The team's top two rushers (Kentrel Rogers and Willie Hopson, who combined for 32 TDs and almost 1,900 yards) are gone, leaving junior Ross Brown to carry the load. However, UCA returns quarterback Nathan Brown, who looked very impressive as a freshman, completing 69.2 percent of his passes for 2,410 yards and 25 TDs. Senior Aaron Fairooz is also back, after setting school records for receptions (76) and receiving yards (1,197) in a season, while adding 12 touchdowns.

On the other side of the ball, the Bears will rely heavily on senior defensive ends Jacob Ford and Jeremy Pittman. Ford led the team with 17 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks, while Pittman wasn't far behind with 10 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. Linebackers Quentin Maxfield (106 tackles) and Kelvin Horne (16 tackles for loss) are solid components on a UCA defense that surrendered just 10 rushing touchdowns last year. But the Bears have to replace defensive back Cory Cangelosi, who had a team-high seven interceptions in 2005. No other player on the team had more than two picks.

It was another tough season for **Savannah State**. The Tigers, who were recently put on three years of probation by the NCAA for recruiting, practice and benefits violations, were one of only two I-AA teams without a win last year (0-11).

The offseason also saw Richard Basil announce his resignation as coach. Basil, who was a QB for the Tigers in the late 1980s, won just two games in his two seasons with the team. He is replaced by Theo Lemon, who comes from longtime NAIA power Central State (Ohio).

Chris Fletcher, Austin Peay State

Unfortunately, one of Lemon's first acts at SSU was canceling spring practice, since the delay in finding a coach didn't give the team enough time to get on the field prior to final exams (players were able to lift weights and go through conditioning drills). Clearly, that can't help the Tigers.

Sophomore QB Garret Williams, who will take over the reins after splitting time with Clyde Tullis last season, leads Savannah State's offense. Williams threw for 2,203 yards and 15 TDs in 2005, with 11 of those going to Tullis, who was also the team's top wideout. The Tigers have a deep hole to fill at wide receiver, as Khalil Hasan graduated as well. Young players like Anthony Huntley and Shawn Williams will be relied upon, regardless of experience. Again carrying the load in the backfield is senior Chadrick Cone (862 yards, 6 TDs), who also ranked third on the team in receiving.

Defensively, the Tigers are sparse, losing five of their six leading tacklers. The news got worse when starting linebacker Rocky Lee withdrew from school in April. Savannah State will have to build around outside linebacker Trent Newton (team-high 100 tackles in 2005) and a secondary that loses just one starter.

Item No. 1 for **Winston-Salem State** this spring was to improve its passing game. As a Division II member in the CIAA last season, the Rams had just three total touchdowns in the air. Perhaps that's because running back Martin Hicks (the 2005 CIAA Player of the Year) was on the team at the time, but has since graduated.

Quarterback Monte Purvis must do better this season, but will be working with a young group of wideouts. Aside from tight end Stan Wright, the Rams' top returning receiver, Mike Scarborough, caught just four passes last season. Replacing Hicks won't be easy either, but junior running back Jerrick Bines (964 yards, nine TDs) has potential to be a star feature back. Senior kicker Matt Hind was a perfect eight-for-eight on field goals last season.

The Rams had 13 interceptions in 2005, including three by junior defensive back Nathaniel Biggs. He leads seven returning defensive starters in a group that also boasts linebacker Darrian Byrum (9 tackles for loss) and 6-4, 255-pound defensive lineman Michael Moore, who had a team-leading four sacks.

As a first-year I-AA independent, the Rams have to take games wherever they can find them, which means just four contests are at home and tough road dates at Coastal Carolina, Hampton and South Carolina State await.

BRIAN A. WESTERHOLT / WIRE IMAGE.COM

Lakers of football shooting for second straight title, but it won't be easy in an improving D2 landscape.

By Gregg Dewalt
Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily

Division II football seems to only be getting better.

Leagues are deeper now than ever, and even with expanded playoffs it seems as if more and more teams can state their case for the postseason.

But there are still lots of heavyweights that rule the national scene each season. No team, however, has dominated in recent seasons quite like the Grand Valley State Lakers.

Grand Valley and Northwest Missouri State treated fans and a national TV audience to a thrilling D2 Championship Game last season at Braly Municipal Stadium in Florence, Ala. In the end, it was the Lakers who emerged with a third title in four years, topping the Bearcats 21-17.

The win wasn't unexpected, as the Lakers have turned Florence into their winter home. They raced through 2005 practically unchallenged before running into Coach Mel Tjeerdsma's road-weary Bearcats.

Just a week earlier on the same field, Northwest Missouri scored in the final minute to beat hometown favorite North Alabama. A similar drama unfolded in the title game, as Grand Valley's defense stopped receiver Raphael Robinson four yards short of a winning touchdown on the game's final play.

It was the first championship for Grand Valley Coach Chuck Martin, who took over the program following the team's 2003 title season. The win was a relief for Martin and proof that the program had not slipped under his direction.

"When you have a coaching change, you always wonder if you can keep it going," Martin says.

Martin's first season as head coach ended with a 10-3 record, and the Lakers failed to reach the championship game for the first time in three years—another reason why Martin believes last year was so important.

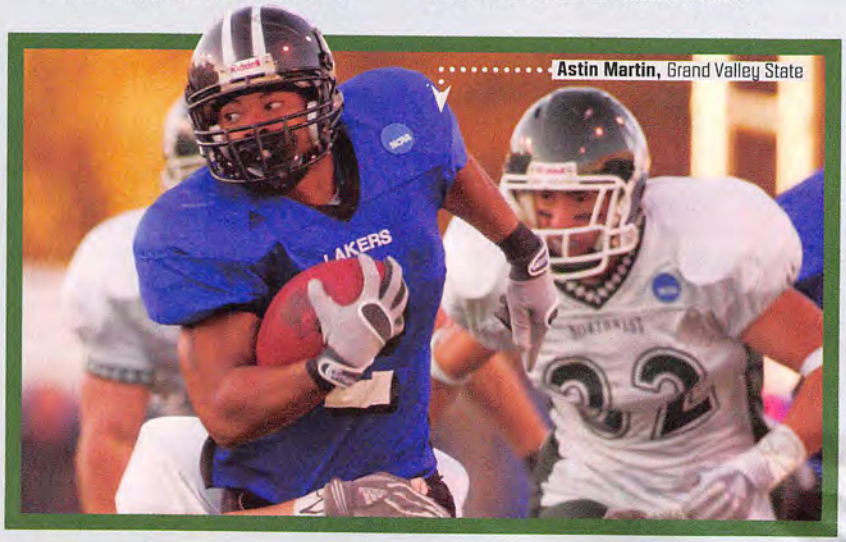
"I think it proved that we have kept the program going at a high level," he says. "It enhances already a good situation here."

For Tjeerdsma, whose Bearcats were denied a third title, the loss overshadowed his team's performance.

"I was disappointed that we lost, but I thought our kids played with great effort," he says. "When I was at the AFCA [American Coaches Football Association] Convention, I had several people tell me the championship game was one of the top three games of the year—on any level."

With a new season about to begin, both coaches are trying to find the right formula to ensure a return trip to the championship game in Florence. And Martin is aware that the Lakers will open the season as the team to beat.

"We know that everyone will be picking us No. 1," he says. "We've been picked No. 1 every year since 2002. Our program has earned that by what it has accomplished. We're viewed by people in Division II as the team to beat."



Astin Martin, Grand Valley State

RAINER EHRHARDT / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS (2)

TOP 25

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Grand Valley State
2. East Stroudsburg
3. North Carolina Central
4. Saginaw Valley State
5. Northwest Missouri State
6. Pittsburg State
7. North Dakota
8. North Alabama
9. Bloomsburg
10. Presbyterian
11. West Texas A&M
12. Shepherd
13. South Dakota
14. Nebraska-Omaha
15. Carson-Newman
16. Valdosta State
17. Ashland
18. Washburn
19. Minnesota-Duluth
20. Nebraska-Kearney
21. Winona State
22. Concordia-St. Paul
23. C.W. Post
24. California (Pa.)
25. Southern Connecticut

As usual, **Grand Valley State** (13-0 overall in 2005), which is 70-5 dating back midway through the 2000 season, is loaded as it goes after its fourth title in five years. Quarterback Cullen Finnerty enters his fourth season as the starter and could become the first player to pass for at least 10,000 yards and rush for 2,000 for his career in Division II history.

Senior Astin Martin leads the ground game after surpassing 1,300 yards in 2005, while receiver Eric Fowler is coming off a 57-catch season. Defensively, the Lakers boast the nation's top defensive linemen in Michael McFadden (19 sacks), who won the Gene Upshaw Award given to Division II's best lineman.

With Jimmy Terwilliger returning for his senior season, **East Stroudsburg** (11-3) is positioned to make another deep playoff run. Terwilliger, who won the Harlon Hill Trophy (given to D2's top player), threw 50 touchdown passes for the Warriors last year, and already owns NCAA records for total offense in a career (12,594 yards) and consecutive games with at least one touchdown pass (37). His favorite receiver, Evan Prall, returns after catching 86 passes last year for 1,766 yards and 23 touchdowns, all three of which are school records.

North Carolina Central (10-2) begins its final year in Division II with its sights set on a national championship. The Eagles, who are moving to Division I-AA, broke a 25-year Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) title drought last season and took North Alabama to the final play before losing in the second round of the playoffs. Giving the Eagles a solid ground game is Greg Pruitt Jr., the son of former Oklahoma All-American and longtime Cleveland Browns running back Greg Pruitt. He rushed for 1,172 yards and 10 TDs in 2005.

Saginaw Valley State (11-2) is one of several Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) teams ready to step in if Grand Valley falters. Both of the Cardinals' losses last year were against the Lakers, and Saginaw Valley has won 10 games three of the past five seasons. While the Cardinals must replace two defensive linemen and All-America linebacker John DiGiorgio, they return QB Chris Dougherty and four starters on the offensive line.

Northwest Missouri State (11-4), part of the powerful Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, will have to be at its best to make a return trip to the playoffs. Coach Mel Tjeerdsma has some holes to fill, especially at quarterback and wide receiver now that Josh Lamberson and Andre Rector have graduated. The Bearcats must also replace All-America defensive end Dave Tollefson.

Pittsburg State (10-4) should contend in the MIAA, and the Gorillas could easily be in the mix for a national championship. Running back Germaine Race (1,846 yards, 33 TDs), who has 5,041 career yards, could surpass Emporia State's Brian Shay as Division II's all-time leading rusher.

North Dakota (10-3) is the team to beat in the North Central Conference, and with Chris Belmore and Reed Manke (who combined for 23 TD passes and 2,881 passing yards last season), the Fighting Sioux are in good shape at quarterback.

North Alabama (11-3) was 23 seconds away from returning to the championship game for the first time since 1995, but now has several holes to fill, including running back DeMarcus Blount, the Gulf South Conference's all-time leading scorer. Anthony Merritt, a Harlon Hill Trophy candidate who scored touchdowns four different ways last year (rushing, receiving, punt return, kickoff return), is UNA's top offensive weapon.

Bloomsburg (11-1) is coming off of one of its best regular seasons in school history. The Huskies raced through the season unbeaten and were ranked as high as No. 2 before losing to East Stroudsburg in the second round of the playoffs. Bloomsburg will again rely on Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Jamar Brittingham (2,260 yards, 34 TDs) to carry the offense at running back.

Presbyterian (10-2) is another school playing its final season in Division II before moving to I-AA, and the Blue Hose hope to build on their 2005 success. With 17 starters back, including nine on defense, Presbyterian will try to maintain its hold on the South Atlantic Conference title.

The key offensive components return among 18 starters for high-powered **West Texas A&M** (10-2), which won its first Lone Star Conference title since 1986 last season and posted 10 wins for the first time since 1950. Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Dalton Bell will try to improve on a season in which he threw for 3,799 yards and 30 TDs.

Shepherd (11-1) will rely on running back Dervon Wallace, who rushed for 1,389 yards and 26 TDs last season despite not becoming a full-time starter

Chris Belmore, North Dakota

Germaine Race, Pittsburg State

(L TO R): LAURIE SISK / THE PITTSBURG MORNING SUN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; KENNY FELT / FORT SCOTT TRIBUNE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Anthony Lazarus, C.W. Post

until the sixth game. On defense, the Rams are led by safety Dan Peters, who led Division II in interceptions last year with 12.

Running back Stefan Logan figures to get even more carries as NCC co-champ **South Dakota** (9-2) breaks in a new quarterback to replace Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up Wesley Beschorner. Logan should be up to the task, as he rushed for 1,751 yards and 11 TDs last season, including a school-record 98-yard scoring run.

Coach Pat Behrns keeps cranking out wins at **Nebraska-Omaha** (8-3), but must replace QB Brian Masek and Chris Denney, the NCC's Most Valuable Receiver for 2005. Tight end Zac Herold (32 catches, 465 yards, 5 TDs) should again be a favorite target for the Mavericks.

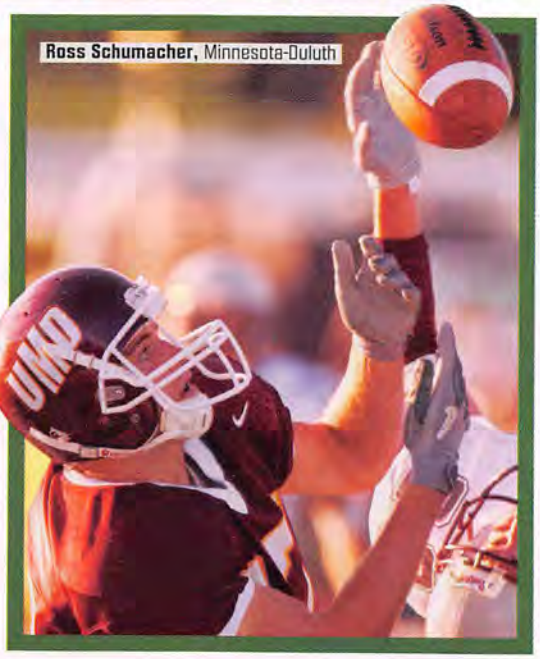
Carson-Newman (8-2) stumbled early and missed the playoffs despite winning its last four games. Coach Ken Sparks begins his 27th season with the Eagles, and has high hopes for sophomore quarterback Alex Rouse and new wide receiver James Banks, who transferred from Tennessee.

A year after winning the national championship, **Valdosta State** (9-3) could never find the same magic in 2005. Coach Chris Hatcher must replace the defensive line and both safety positions, and he opened up the quarterback race after incumbent starter Barrett Wilkes missed spring practice because of shoulder surgery.

Ashland (9-2) hopes to parlay the momentum of a season-ending six-game winning streak into a run at postseason play. The Eagles were second nationally in Division II for scoring defense (9.7 ppg), and their two losses were by a combined seven points. Linebackers Brady Miller (98 tackles) and Allen Lattimore (75) anchor a defense that should be among the nation's best.

Washburn (9-3) will try to build on its first MIAA championship behind an offense that returns many of its skill players, including QB Jordan Brill and running back Trent Hearn.

Minnesota-Duluth (8-4) grabbed a share of the NCC title in just its second year in the league behind the play of freshman QB Ted Schlafke (3,335 passing yards, 33 TDs). Two of Schlafke's top targets return in Greg Aker (1,005 receiving yards) and Ross Schumacher (44 catches).


Ross Schumacher, Minnesota-Duluth

Safety Paul Jimenez and defensive end Sir Keevin Hardiman lead a veteran defensive unit that will try to spark **Nebraska-Kearney** (9-3) to a second consecutive Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference title.

Winona State (8-3) and **Concordia-St. Paul** (9-3) shared the Northern Sun Intercollegiate championship last year and should battle for conference supremacy once again. Quarterback Drew Aber keys Winona's offense, while Concordia defensive tackle Eric Power is among the country's best defensive players.

C.W. Post (10-3) won two playoff games last year before running into East Stroudsburg in the quarterfinals. The Pioneers have one of the nation's best young running backs in sophomore Anthony Lazarus, who rushed for 1,494 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

With 18 starters returning from an 8-2 team—nine on each side of the ball—**California (Pa.)** is poised to win another Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West title. Quarterback Joe Ruggiero will have to put up big numbers to help make up for the graduation of All-America running back Antoine Bagwell.

Southern Connecticut (8-3) faces a rebuilding season after losing its top two rushers and receivers, but QB Steven Armstrong threw 24 TD passes as a redshirt freshman last year.

BEST OF THE REST

Several teams in the GLIAC could move up in the standings. **Northwood** (9-3) is coming off a playoff appearance, while **Ferris State**, **Wayne State** and **Gannon** will try to improve on three-win seasons. Receivers Sam Culbreth and Wes Whiteside return from medical-redshirt seasons at Gannon, while Ferris State will build its defense around linebacker Mike Klobucher (109 tackles last season). Wayne State hopes to get a boost from running back Daryl Graham, a transfer from Michigan Tech.

If **Angelo State** (9-3) can find a defense, the Rams should again be among the top Lone Star Conference teams. Kyle Fox rushed for 1,417 yards and 15 TDs his freshman season, and QB Trey Weishuhn (17 TD passes) has his top two receivers returning.

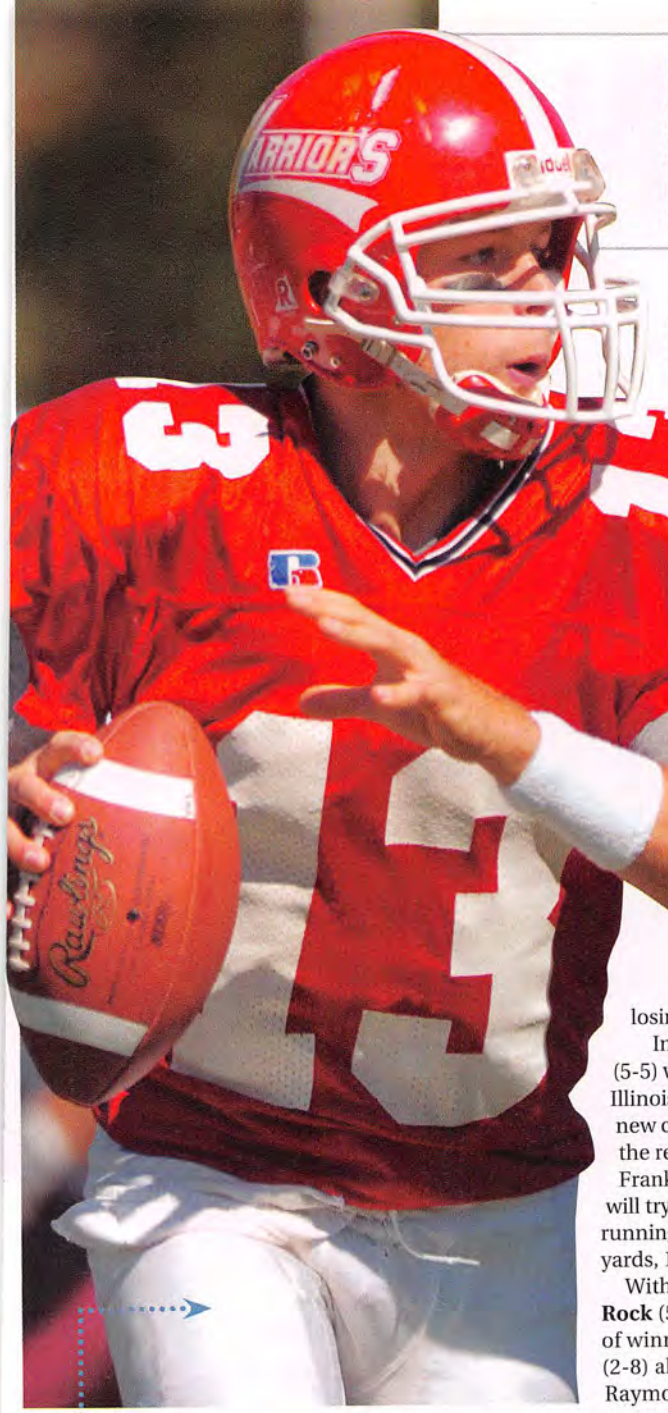
All of the losses by **St. Cloud State** (8-3) were in NCC play, and if the Huskies can improve on that statistic, they could be a playoff contender. Defensive back Mitchell Denne, a preseason All-America selection in 2005, will try to bounce back from a season in which he missed three games due to injury. **Central Washington** (8-2) gets its first dose of NCC competition, and will look for sophomore QB Mike Reilly (30 TD passes) to help make the transition from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference a smooth one. **Western Washington** (4-6), another new NCC member this year, will try to rebound from just its third losing season in the last 19 years.

The Gulf South should again be up for grabs as **West Georgia** (7-4) tries to make inroads to a championship. With nine returning starters on defense, the Wolves should be a contender. **Arkansas Tech** (7-3) lost five offensive starters to graduation, but did pick up transfer quarterback Cole Barthel from the University of Arkansas.

Running back D.D. Holyfield (1,154 yards) leads a list of 13 returning starters at **Southern Arkansas** (6-5), while **Harding** (6-5) looks to replace 25 seniors. **West Alabama** (2-9), which was winless in GSC play last season, brings in Bobby Wallace as the new head coach. Wallace won three straight national championships at North Alabama from 1993-95 before spending eight seasons at Temple.

Bowie State (8-4) won the CIAA Eastern Division title last season before falling to N.C. Central in the conference title game. Bulldogs running back Isaac Redman is coming off a 1,512-yard season. **Fayetteville State** (8-4) will rely on a tough defense to try to move up in the league standings.

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARTIN B. CHERRY / THE JOURNAL / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; JUSTIN HAYWORTH / DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



GAMES TO WATCH

Aug. 26: Albany State at North Carolina Central
Sept. 9: California (Pa.) at Bloomsburg
Sept. 16: C.W. Post at Shepherd
Nov. 4: Saginaw Valley State at Grand Valley State
Nov. 11: North Alabama at West Alabama

Newberry (5-4) is coming off its first winning South Atlantic Conference season in 21 years. With the return of wideout Tymere Zimmerman and QB Josh Stepp, the Indians could easily challenge for the conference title. **Lenoir-Rhyne** (5-5) snapped an 11-year streak of losing seasons in 2005, but Coach Wayne Hicks now must replace 15 seniors. **Tusculum** (3-7) will try to rebound from its first losing campaign since 1999.

In the PSAC, **Indiana (Pa.)** (5-5) welcomes former University of Illinois head man Lou Tepper as its new coach. He takes over following the retirement of 20-year veteran Frank Cignetti. **West Chester** (8-4) will try for a return playoff trip behind running back Brent Steinmetz (1,188 yards, 14 TDs).

With 19 returning starters, **Slippery Rock** (5-5) could be on the brink of winning the PSAC West. **Kutztown** (2-8) also has a new coach, tapping Raymond Monica, the former defensive coordinator at Temple and North Alabama. **Mansfield** (1-10) has struggled recently, but running back Earnest "Poohbear" McNeal is worth the price of admission. The senior already owns the school rushing record.

In the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, **Colorado School of Mines** (6-5) will try to move up from last year's second-place finish behind QB Garrett Mehl and running back Bryan Florendo. **Adams State** (6-5) loses five starters from a defense that led the conference for the third straight season. The Grizzlies also lost Defensive Coordinator Marty Heaton to Colorado School of Mines. **Chadron State** (4-6) will go as far as running back Danny Woodhead takes them. A junior, Woodhead has scored 48 touchdowns in two seasons.

Bentley (7-3) is a contender for the Northeast-10 Conference, as the Falcons look for a return trip to the playoffs after being shut out of the postseason for the first time in three seasons.

Coming off a first-round playoff loss, **Albany State** (8-2) remains the team to beat in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, while a new coach, Greg Thompson, should have **Stillman** (6-4) in the SIAC hunt as well.

Independent **Missouri-Rolla** (7-4) is coming off of its first winning season in 20 years, as junior receiver Ashton Gronewald led the team with 1,080 yards and 17 TDs. **Texas A&M-Kingsville** (6-4) will try to rebound from an uncharacteristically bad 2-4 record in the Lone Star Conference.

2006 DIVISION 2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

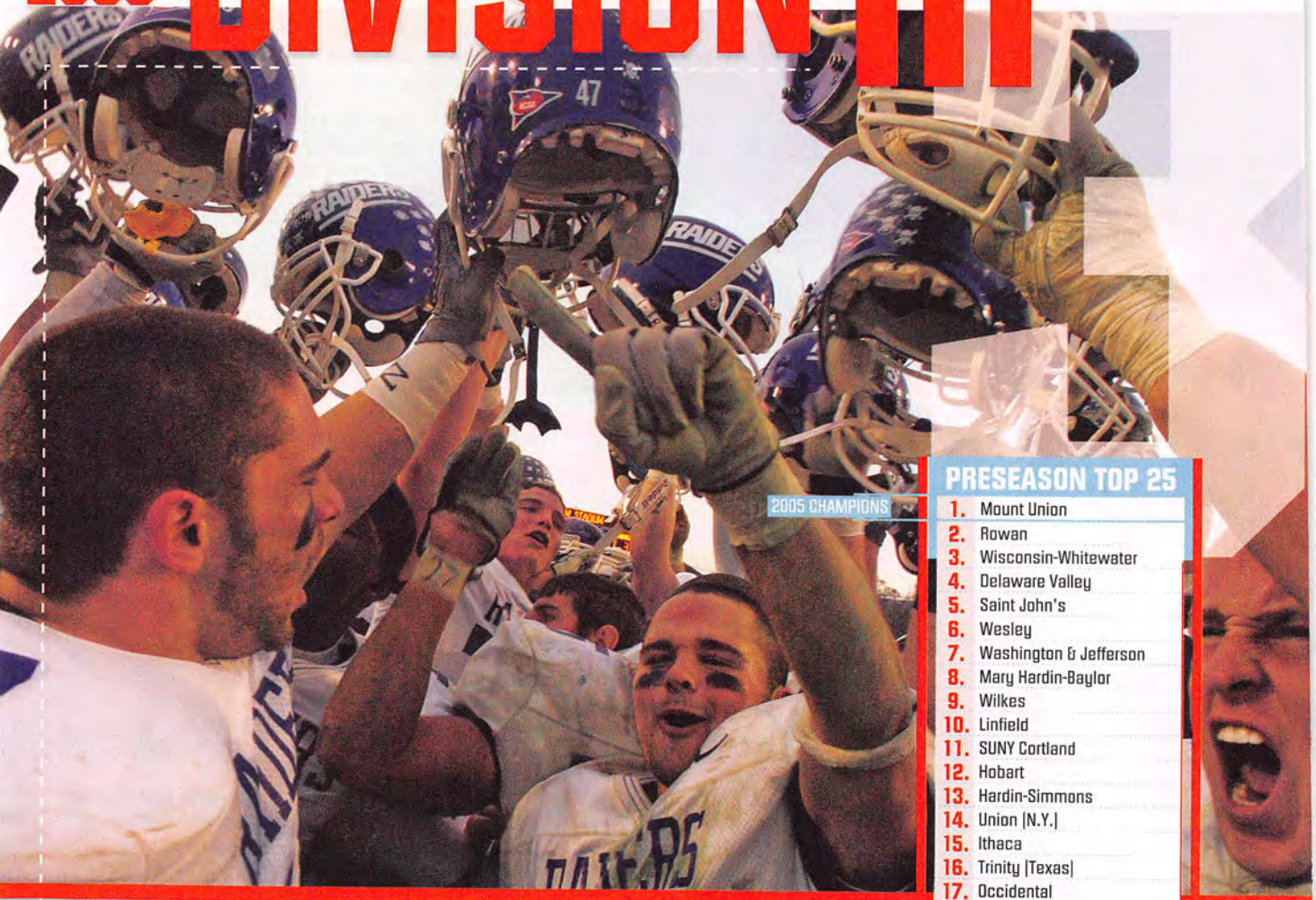
QB	**Jimmy Terwilliger, 6-0, 170, Sr., East Stroudsburg**
RB	Jamar Brittingham, 6-0, 203, Jr., Bloomsburg
RB	Germaine Race, 5-11, 235, Sr., Pittsburg State
RB	Stefan Logan, 5-7, 180, Sr., South Dakota
TE	Zac Herold, 6-6, 269, Sr., Nebraska-Omaha
OL	Joe Wohlscheid, 6-7, 310, Jr., Grand Valley State
OL	Robert Duncan, 6-0, 255, Sr., North Carolina Central
OL	Chris Zimmerman, 6-4, 265, Sr., Winona State
OL	Tim McCutcheon, 6-4, 275, Jr., California (Pa.)
WR	Evan Prall, 6-0, 173, Sr., East Stroudsburg
WR	Ashton Gronewald, 5-11, 175, Jr., Missouri-Rolla
WR	Tymere Zimmerman, 6-3, 208, r-Sr., Newberry
RS	Anthony Merritt, 6-0, 189, Sr., North Alabama
PK	Paul Williams, 5-10, 200, Sr., Tarleton State

DEFENSE

DL	Sir Keevin Hardiman, 6-1, 230, Sr., Nebraska-Kearney
DL	Eric Power, 6-5, 268, Sr., Concordia-St. Paul
DL	Michael McFadden, 6-1, 255, Sr., Grand Valley State
DL	Damion DeRosia, 6-6, 325, Jr., Saginaw Valley State
LB	John Tackman, 6-2, 210, Sr., Winona State
LB	Jim Kokrak, 6-3, 225, Jr., Mercyhurst
LB	Donald Tharpe, 5-10, 205, Sr., North Alabama
LB	Brady Miller, 6-0, 224, Sr., Ashland
DB	Chad Burgess, 5-10, 178, Sr., Presbyterian
DB	Keon Gaither, 6-0, 200, Sr., West Texas A&M
DB	Dan Peters, 6-0, 211, Sr., Shepherd
DB	Fletcher Terrell, 6-1, 190, Sr., Washburn
P	Jason Davis, 5-10, 176, Jr., Western State

DAVID KIDWELL / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

2006 DIVISION III



2005 CHAMPIONS

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Mount Union
2. Rowan
3. Wisconsin-Whitewater
4. Delaware Valley
5. Saint John's
6. Wesley
7. Washington & Jefferson
8. Mary Hardin-Baylor
9. Wilkes
10. Linfield
11. SUNY Cortland
12. Hobart
13. Hardin-Simmons
14. Union (N.Y.)
15. Ithaca
16. Trinity (Texas)
17. Occidental
18. Central (Iowa)
19. Bridgewater (Va.)
20. Adrian
21. Wabash
22. Monmouth
23. Augustana
24. St. John Fisher
25. Capital

Whether they like it or not, Kehres' Purple Raiders have dynasty for the ages

By Mike Goens
Florence (Ala.) Times Daily

Don't even bring up certain topics with Larry Kehres.

He doesn't want to hear anything about his Mount Union football team being an NCAA Division III dynasty. And he certainly doesn't want to hear talk about how he has become a coaching legend at the relatively young age of 56.

"Let's talk about something else," Kehres will say before you can complete the sentence about either topic.

The numbers speak loudly, though. The Purple Raiders have won seven of the past 10 national championships, and finished second another year during the stretch.

As for Kehres, he has been National Coach of the Year seven times during his 20 years leading the Purple Raiders. He has also produced 14 undefeated seasons and boasts a career record of 231-20-3 at Mount Union.

But don't think for a second that Kehres will take any credit for that impressive resume.

"I'm proud of the program, especially all the players and coaches who have made this possible," he says. "The key is just not getting too far ahead of yourself. There are certain things you have to do every day—recruiting players and working to develop those players. If you make every day a productive day, you have a chance to make every season productive."

Winning consistently in Division III has become increasingly difficult, too. There are now more than 230 schools playing football in the classification. The expanded playoffs and national exposure that go with them have prompted many schools to place greater emphasis on football.

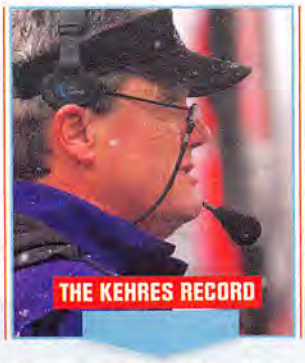
"The level of play is better than it was 10 years ago in our conference and across the country," Kehres says. "Division III football on the West Coast and in the South has improved so much. It's much tougher."

SAM DEAN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

TOP 25

Don't expect **Mount Union** to go away anytime soon. Despite several key losses on defense, the Purple Raiders will be favored to add impressive hardware to their already-bulging trophy case on campus.

The weapons on offense are exceptional. Last year, Mount Union became the only college program to ever produce a 3,000-yard passer, two 1,000-yard receivers and two 1,000-yard rushers in the same season. The headache that the Purple Raiders create for opposing defensive coordinators is massive, as Mount Union's offensive unit averaged 41.3 points and 520 yards per game last year—and many of those key players are returning.



THE KEHRES RECORD

- 20 seasons as head coach of Mount Union
- 231-20-3 overall record
- 16 Ohio Athletic Conference championships
- 8 national championships
- 7 National Coach-of-the-Year awards

Quarterback Mike Jorris threw 35 touchdown passes a year ago, while receiver Pierre Garcon (68 catches, 1,196 receiving yards, 16 TDs) is the team's top option at wideout. Running backs Nate Kmic (1,219 rushing yards) and Aaron Robinson (1,070) combined for 28 TDs, and a very talented offensive line is led by 317-pound tackle Jason Lewis. Defensively, the returnees who will be counted on heavily are Matt Kostelnik and Ryan Fehl in the secondary and Matt Rees at linebacker.

"We had some key losses on defense and some of our first-year starters will have to play like winners from the start," Kehres says.

In New Jersey, there is a lot of talk about **Rowan**, which has reached the national semifinals in consecutive years. The defensive unit could be something special, with the Profs returning nine starters. Randy Tosh, who lines up at defensive end and linebacker, logged 102 tackles a year ago, including 13 sacks. Linebacker Zach Garren was the New Jersey Athletic Conference's Defensive Rookie of the Year last season after posting 97 tackles and four interceptions. Safety Eric Bailey, defensive end Keith Heimerl and cornerback Jabrill Joseph can all provide big plays.

Two key weapons, quarterback Mike Orihel and running back Ulysses Encarnacion, are back on offense. However, finding quality receivers and consistent line play will be crucial for the Profs.

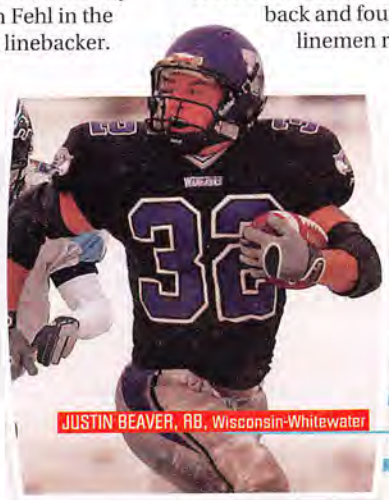
Wisconsin-Whitewater fell just short to Mount Union in the championship game last December and returns several key players, including nine starters on offense and six on defense. The Warhawks will have to survive a tough conference schedule to return, though.

Quarterback Justin Jacobs, running back Justin Beaver and offensive linemen Brady Ramseier and Max Sakellaris all return after being selected to the first-team all-conference squad. Beaver is back after setting a Division III record with 2,420 rushing yards. Jacobs passed for 3,556 yards and 35 TDs, and receiver Derek Stanley is also a threat.

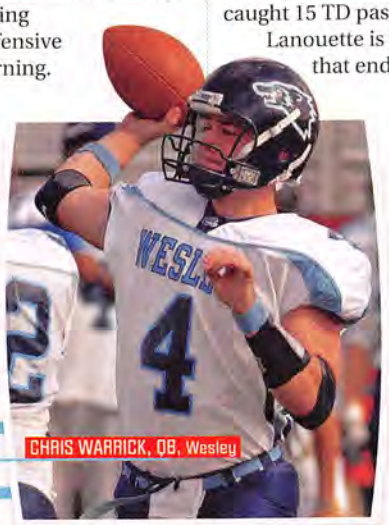
Defensive lineman Ryan Kleppe had 19.5 tackles for loss last year, and return specialist Neil Mrkvicka is a gamebreaker.

The big question at **Delaware Valley** will be how it reacts under new Coach Jim Clements, who was the team's defensive coordinator last season. The Aggies were 12-1 in 2005 and have eight starters back on offense and 10 on defense.

Finding a replacement for quarterback Adam Knoblauch will be the key. Whoever wins the job will have plenty of help during the transition, with several talented receivers, a proven running back and four offensive linemen returning.



JUSTIN BEAVER, RB, Wisconsin-Whitewater



CHRIS WARRICK, QB, Wesley

Receiver Don Marshall had more than 1,000 receiving yards in 2005 and is a constant deep threat. David Carmon is also a clutch receiver, while tackle Kevin Harrigan is a load up front. The defense is solid, with end Anthony Silver capable of one big play after another. Cornerback Matt Murphy had five interceptions, and linebacker John Pursell logged 108 tackles.

Saint John's continues to be one of the most consistent winners in Division III under legendary Coach John Gagliardi (432-118-11 in his career). When the Johnnies open their season Sept. 2, Gagliardi will begin his 58th season as a college head coach, breaking Amos Alonzo Stagg's record in the process.

The Johnnies' defense has been a trademark for years, but only four starters are back this season. Defensive lineman Kevin McNamara is a game-changer, recording 7.5 sacks in a playoff game last year and finishing with 12 sacks for the season. Defensive backs Shawn Schoenberg and John Cloeter are leaders, and the unit will get a boost with the return of linebacker Jamie Steffensmeier (121 tackles in 2003), who missed last season with a knee injury. The offense, which has eight starters back, will be superb with the tandem of quarterback Alex Kofoed (2,972 passing yards, 24 TDs) and receiver Kyle Gearman (53 receptions, 860 yards), along with running back Mike Lofboom.

Wesley has made great strides in recent years and this could be the Wolverines' best team, which is a tall statement coming off a 12-win season. Only five starters are back on defense, but they are very capable of leading the unit. Free safety Mario Harris was in on 113 tackles last year while forcing five fumbles, intercepting two passes and blocking three kicks. Defensive end Bryan Robinson had 106 tackles, 18 sacks and seven forced fumbles. On offense, quarterback Chris Warrick threw for 3,710 yards and 37 TDs, as Marcus Lee grabbed 77 of those passes for 1,297 yards. Larry Beavers caught 15 TD passes and fellow receiver Jon Lanouette is back from a knee injury that ended his 2005 season.

Washington & Jefferson has been a constant in the Division III playoffs, appearing in 17 of the past 21 postseason tournaments. The Presidents could be very good again this season, as they have eight starters back on defense and seven on offense, along with both kickers. A new quarterback (likely either Ryan Church or Bobby Swallow), will head the offense, but the Presidents will have one of the top offensive lines around to ease the pressure, led by Chris Hickey and Chris Teter. On defense, the strength will be up front as well, but free safety Nick Cherish has all-star potential.

The players at **Mary Hardin-Baylor** will literally have to put it on the line this season, because the play of the offensive and defensive lines will make or break the Crusaders. The O-line loses four starters and the D-line three, but Coach Pete Fredenburg says there is talent among the replacements. The Crusaders have not lost more than one regular-season game in six seasons and have been a playoff regular in recent years. Safety Josh Kubiak and

TOP TO BOTTOM: WHITE WHALE, AP, MOUNTAIN ...

linebacker Jerrell Freeman will make big plays for the defense. Quarterback Josh Welch was a part-time starter last year and will take over under center this season. He will look to running back Freddie Rollins and receiver Anthony Carter to carry the load.

The surprise of the season could be **Wilkes**, which returns 20 starters from an 8-3 squad that advanced to the 2005 playoffs. Defensively, the Colonels will be stout, with linebackers Kyle Follweiler (116 tackles) and Tyler Henninger (96) combining with linemen Anthony Serafin and Jason Acquaye to lead the unit. The offense is steady and doesn't make mistakes, recording only 12 turnovers a year ago. Tight end Matt Pizarro is one of the nation's best, and receiver Jim Jordan and guard Jordan Purdy are also leaders.

Linfield has been hard to handle in the Northwest Conference since making the move over from the NAIA. The Wildcats (60-6 over the past six years) have finished with a winning record in 50 consecutive seasons and are currently on a 41-game winning streak in regular-season contests.

A rebuilding year is ahead, though, especially on offense, where only four starters return. Three of those are offensive linemen, led by tackle Jake Lucey, who could play for any team. Either Tim Benzel or Trevor Scharer will likely win the quarterback job. Defensively, three starters are back on the line—Michael Greenberg, Mike Ketler and Nik Soo.

A team to keep a close eye on is **SUNY Cortland**, which made the playoffs last year for the first time since 1997 even though there were only three seniors on the squad. Nineteen starters return, including 10 from a defensive unit that allowed only 40.9 rushing yards a game. The defense intercepted 23 passes in 10 games and set a school record with nine blocked kicks. Linebacker Josh Jablonski made six of those blocks, tackle Adam Haas had 10.5 sacks and forced one fumble and safety Stef Sair had four interceptions. The Red Dragons like to grind it out on the ground and quarterback Alex Smith can hurt you throwing or running.

Hobart has made it to the playoffs in four of the past six years and returns 10 starters on offense and five on defense. Doug Blakowski is back after rushing for 1,364 yards and 17 TDs, and three solid offensive linemen (Mike DePersis, Nino Giambrone and Phill Perkins) will make sure he's a threat again. Quarterback Shawn Mizro had 17 TD passes as a junior. Linebacker Jeff Sanders and end Andy Purdie will lead the defense.

Hardin-Simmons will be among the best in Division III's South region, as the Cowboys have plenty of experience and big-play pop returning. Quarterback Jordan Neal was granted a sixth year of eligibility after breaking his collarbone last year, and could break the school's passing records this season. The key will be finding consistent receiving threats to join running back Quinton Jones and tight end Pete Lopez. Offensive linemen Jordan Daniel, Josh Knox and Jordan Maxwell are all proven. Seven starters are back on the Cowboys' defense, led by lineman Chris Jones, linebackers Robert Galusha and Eric Daniels and safety Cody Deaver.

After posting an undefeated regular season for the first time since 1993, **Union** will try to take an additional step this year with three starters back on defense and five on offense. The Dutchmen will have to replace four offensive linemen, but there are plenty of skills on that side of the ball. Running back Tom Arcidiacono rushed for nearly 2,000 yards and 20 touchdowns in 2005, while Steve Angiletta had 1,612 receiving yards. Quarterback Anthony Marotti (3,095 passing yards, 26 TDs) is also solid. The defense is led by defensive linemen Jesse Smith and Dylon Walton-Yedlin and linebacker Vito Pellerito.

Ithaca could be a national contender if the quarterback position and three linebacker slots get settled quickly. The Bombers, who have 35 straight winning seasons, return 13 starters. On defense, Joe Napoleone and Tom Blumenauer make things happen in the secondary. And with four offensive linemen back—led by center Justin Brunell, who is a big-time performer—tailback Alex Baez and tight end Mike Oertel could have big years.

GAMES TO WATCH

- Sept. 16: Delaware Valley at Wilkes
- Sept. 23: Saint John's at Concordia-Moorhead
- Sept. 23: Ithaca at St. John Fisher
- Oct. 7: Hardin-Simmons at Mary Hardin-Baylor
- Oct. 14: Wisconsin-La Crosse at Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Oct. 14: Wheaton at Augustana
- Oct. 28: Capital at Mount Union
- Nov. 4: SUNY Cortland at Rowan
- Nov. 4: Albion at Adrian

Trinity has recently been hard to contain offensively in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, but the Tigers have several holes to fill with only four starters back this season. Quarterback Jacob Cannon and receivers Justin Thompson and Anthony Hicks are good ones to lean on, though. The defense will be stout, with seven starters back from a squad that allowed only 13 touchdowns and posted 32 sacks and 14 interceptions. Dustin Allen, Ted Barnhart and Tyler Flynn will be the leaders.

Winning is becoming a habit for **Occidental** and there are plenty of weapons available this year, especially with returning quarterback Andy Collins, who tossed 31 scoring passes in 2005. Running back Matt Andersen is also back, but the unit will be young overall. The defense is experienced and talented, led by linebackers Joe Zackary and Anthony Ostland.

Look for **Central** to be very competitive if it can develop solid line play. The Dutch made it to the playoffs last year and return a veteran defense and one of the nation's best running backs in Vance Schuring (1,339 rushing yards, 16 TDs). Quarterback Timothy Connell and top receiver Brad Ryals are also back, but the defense will lead the way. Linebacker Andrew Lehn is one of eight returning defensive starters back, while Brett Doud is a strong cornerback and can also produce big kick returns.

Rebuilding efforts must move quickly if **Bridgewater** is going to continue its domination with a sixth straight Old Dominion Athletic Conference title. Only five offensive starters and six defensive starters return. Fortunately for the Eagles, quarterback Jeff Highfill is one of them. He had 713 yards and seven TDs last year, helping lead Bridgewater into the quarterfinals of the playoffs. Tailback Winston Young can carry the load, too. Key players to watch on defense are linebacker Antwaine Campo, cornerback Joshua Knight and end David Clements.

Adrian could again be the top gun in Michigan, and the Bulldogs will also have a new stadium to celebrate. The defense will be exceptional, led by linebacker Taz Wallace, who is already the school's all-time-leading tackler. He had 133 stops in 2005, including 11.5 for losses. Nine other returning starters join him on defense. D.J. Howard provides a lot of excitement for the offense as a punt returner and receiver, while kicker James Spencer gives the Bulldogs another weapon.

Defense could carry **Wabash** to big things. The unit, which returns six starters, allowed 65.6 rushing yards, 10.7 points and only 255.5 total yards per game in 2005. Linebacker Adrian Pynenberg had 96 tackles and seven sacks last year. The key for the Little Giants will be finding a quarterback to go along with numerous talented receivers, and Dustin Huff appears to be that man.

Monmouth will try to duplicate an exceptional 2005 season and has plenty of experience back (16 starters), but the Hawks need a new quarterback. Evan Haffner is an explosive receiver (five TDs of 35 yards or more) and return man (two punt returns for TDs), while fellow wideout Dan Morrison has great hands. Joe Freitag is solid up front and will man the offensive line. On defense, Anthony Goranson (11 sacks) and linebacker Phil Kleckler will lead the way.

If **Augustana** can find a solid quarterback to go with a veteran offensive line, it could be another big season for the Vikings. The team has a solid running threat in Mike Guzman (1,089 yards). Augustana's defense will again be tough to score on, with linebacker Joe Youngbauer and end Aaron Call capable of making big plays.

St. John Fisher could turn a lot of heads this season with 13 starters back from an eight-win team. Defensively, the Cardinals

are stout, with linebacker Gene Lang (143 tackles) and cornerback Steven Stepnick (4 INTs) leading the unit. James Reile is an offensive weapon at running back for St. John Fisher, which has been to the playoffs three consecutive years.

Capital has perhaps the best offensive weapon in the country in quarterback Rocky Pentello, who has passed for just under 9,000 yards in his career. He needs only 1,401 yards to set the career conference record. The bad news is that eight starters on offense were lost following a school-record 10-win season. Plus, the Crusaders play in perhaps the toughest conference (Ohio Athletic) in Division III. That means the defense, led by safeties and twin brothers Kyle and Thom Hausler, will have to be solid from Day One. Kicker Matt Spitz is also a weapon.

BEST OF THE REST

With the competitive level rising annually in Division III, numerous teams could challenge for national recognition. **Concordia-Moorhead** is one of those squads, as the Cobbers try to make the playoffs for the third consecutive year. Running back Cory Johnson averaged 7.8 yards per carry last season and joins seven other returning starters, but a quarterback must be found, along with eight new starters on defense. **Alfred** was 9-2 last year and has 17 starters back, including defensive end Andy Rantz, tailback Elmer Newsome and quarterback Paul Keeley. New Coach Eric Koehler will try to continue the tradition at **Wartburg**. The Knights have the sixth-best winning percentage in the nation over the past 12 years and will build around running back Dan Hammes, receiver Kyle Duchman, defensive back Nick Weber and linebacker Kyle Goodchild. **Rensselaer** went 8-2 in 2005 and returns all 11 starters on offense and six on defense. Tight end Jon Branche, running back Jay Bernardo and quarterback Jimmy Robertson are the playmakers.

Wisconsin-La Crosse slumped to 5-4 last season, but the Eagles won't be down long. The team will be playing its 94th season in 2006 and returns 15 starters, led by key performers like secondary aces Kenneth Halvorson and Steve Teeples, along with quarterback John Schumann, receiver Ted Everson and tailback Corey Geldernick. **Wheaton** could go far if it cuts down on turnovers (28 last season) and the defense can rally around Andrew Studebaker and Pete Ittersagen. **Ohio Northern** lost heavily through graduation, but still has all-stars like defensive end Jason Trusnik and quarterback Adam Quirk. **Trinity (Conn.)** was 8-0 last year, has won 30 straight contests and returns 13 starters. Quarterback Chandler Barnard is exciting, but replacing three linebackers will be crucial. **Otterbein** could be ready to take another step forward with 19 starters back from a 7-3 squad. Quarterback Paul Stelzer, linebacker Kieran Johnson and defensive end Michael King will lead the Cardinals.

Adding depth to the competitive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is **Wisconsin-Stout**, a team that went 6-4 last season and has 18 starters returning. Receiver Jesse Wendt and 330-pound offensive lineman Jay Runk make things happen. **Albion** will try to repeat as Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association champs and only needs consistent play at quarterback to challenge. Cornerback Chase Chandler is also back after six interceptions last year.

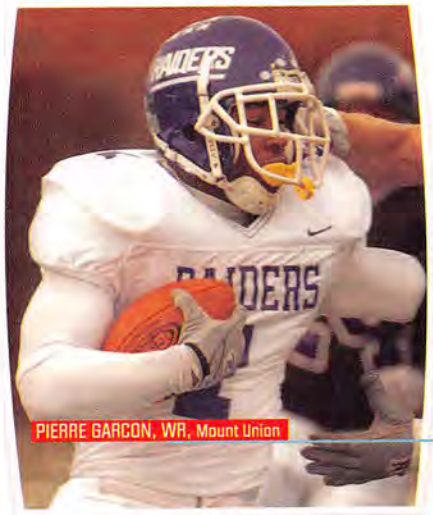
Howard Payne is fighting for recognition in the Division III South region and could receive it with 14 starters back, including quarterback Adam Johnson (29 TD passes) and receivers Brandon Tolbert and Chris Jackson. **Washington & Lee** has made quick strides and boasts talented threats like returner Stuart Sitterson, receiver Jack Martin and all-purpose performer Colton Ward.

Washington (Mo.) has 10 starters back on offense and end Drew Wethington leads the defense. **College of Wooster** has 19 returning starters, including offensive lineman Rick Drushal and quarterback Justin Schafer. **Lakeland** lost its quarterback, top linebacker and defensive end, but don't count the Muskies out after an 8-3 season in 2005.

Alma can cause some problems with quarterback Josh Brehm directing an offense that averaged 509.9 yards per game last year. **Whitworth** could challenge Linfield's recent domination of the Northwest Conference with quarterback Joel Clark among 17 starters returning.

2006 DIVISION III PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

POS.	NAME	SIZE	CLASS	COLLEGE
OFFENSE				
OL	Brady Ramseier	6-6, 290	Jr.	Wisconsin-Whitewater
OL	Jason Lewis	6-5, 317	Sr.	Mount Union
OL	Jake Lucey	6-4, 275	Sr.	Linfield
OL	Chris Hickey	6-0, 245	Sr.	Washington & Jefferson
OL	Rick Drushal	6-4, 305	Sr.	College of Wooster
TE	Jon Branche	6-4, 245	Sr.	Rensselaer
QB	Rocky Pentello	6-1, 215	Sr.	Capital
RB	Justin Beaver	5-8, 196	Jr.	Wisconsin-Whitewater
RB	Tom Arcidiacono	6-0, 210	Sr.	Union
WR	Pierre Garcon	6-1, 203	Jr.	Mount Union
WR	Steve Angiletta	6-0, 185	Sr.	Union
WR	Jack Martin	6-3, 185	Jr.	Washington & Lee
PK	Geoff Troy	6-3, 190	So.	Merchant Marine
DEFENSE				
DL	Adam Haas	6-0, 255	Sr.	SUNY Cortland
DL	Jason Trusnik	6-5, 235	Sr.	Ohio Northern
DL	Chad Glover	6-0, 215	Sr.	East Texas Baptist
DL	Randy Tosh	6-2, 248	Jr.	Rowan
LB	Mark Carlisle	6-2, 230	Sr.	Thomas More
LB	Taz Wallace	6-1, 230	Sr.	Adrian
LB	Gene Lang	5-11, 200	Sr.	St. John Fisher
LB	Jamie Steffensmeier	6-0, 220	Sr.	Saint John's
DB	Mario Harris	5-8, 180	Sr.	Wesley
DB	Aaron Lewis	6-0, 210	Sr.	Carnegie Mellon
DB	Sylvester Walker	6-2, 200	So.	Howard Payne
DB	Steve Teeples	6-0, 160	Sr.	Wisconsin-La Crosse
P	Hunter Hamrick	6-1, 170	Sr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor



PIERRE GARCON, WR, Mount Union

SAM DEAN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

2006

JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT

Expect 2006 to be a landmark year for juco impact on BCS conferences

By **TONY JIMENEZ**
Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

If big-name four-year schools had their choice, they would rather have a player for four years than two, but countless numbers of schools are still not shying away from recruiting quality junior-college players these days.

From coast to coast, some of the better schools in the BCS conferences are luring junior-college standouts from no-name small towns that play before small crowds with little fanfare to bigger cities to play before larger crowds on national TV. Schools from virtually every part of the U.S.—including Arizona, Florida State, Kansas State, Nebraska (with eight signees), Ohio State, Oklahoma, Michigan State, Oregon, Oregon State, Pittsburgh and South Carolina—expect significant contributions this season from juco transfers.

"Some schools have immediate needs," says Arkansas assistant James Shibest, a former head coach at national power Butler County (Kan.) Community College (1996-99). "It's been great for us. The guys we get may not be All-Americans or all-conference, but they are steady."

Butler County Coach Troy Morrell sent 14 players to NCAA Division I-A schools after last season.

"Those schools know they can get great players from jucos who will help them be successful," says Morrell. "Juco talent across the country is getting better. Coaches [at four-year schools] tell us they like our kids because they are disciplined and good fundamentally. They can do a lot of different things well and the coaches like that."

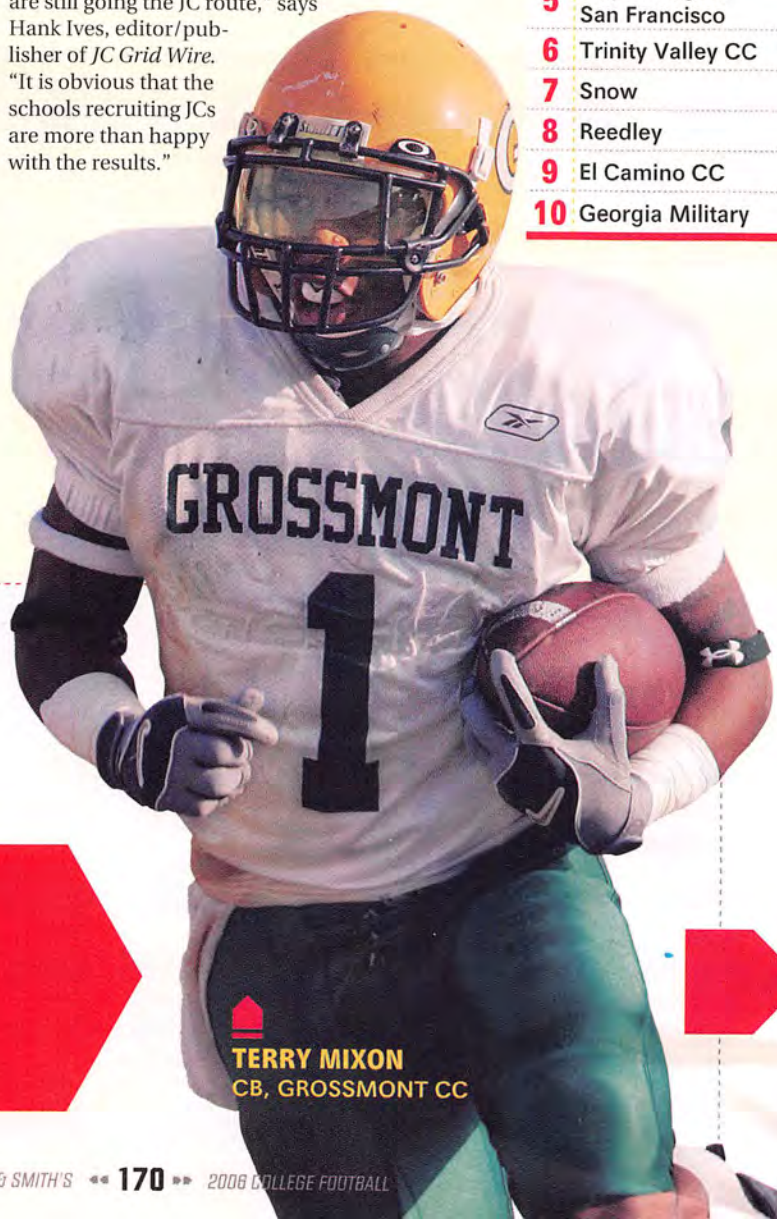
"The big boys that are up there every year are still going the JC route," says Hank Ives, editor/publisher of *JC Grid Wire*. "It is obvious that the schools recruiting JCs are more than happy with the results."

TOP 10

1	Grossmont CC
2	College of the Canyons
3	Butler County CC
4	Glendale CC
5	City College of San Francisco
6	Trinity Valley CC
7	Snow
8	Reedley
9	El Camino CC
10	Georgia Military

1 Grossmont CC
(Calif.), 13-1 in '05

After having been the coach since 1991, Dave Jordan is turning over the program to his son, Mike, but the beat will definitely go on at the El Cajon, Calif., school, where the Griffins have a 64-9 record since 2000. With 40 sophomores on hand, including 13 returning starters (seven on defense and six on offense), experience and quality depth abounds. Running back Kevin Smith (5-10, 190 pounds) is fast and strong, wide receiver Chris Johnson (6-1, 180) beats defenders with regularity and defensive tackle Magnum Mauga, a linebacker in high school, is the strongest player on the team and a shoo-in All-American. Defensively, look for cornerback Terry Mixon, an outstanding cover guy, and linebacker Aveni Leung Wai, who was slowed by a toe injury last season, to have big years.



TERRY MIXON
CB, GROSSMONT CC

GARY KAZANJIAN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

2 College of the Canyons
(Calif.), 12-1

Some people call them College of the Canyons, others, just Canyons. Whatever you call them, though, be sure to put a winner's tag with it. There shouldn't be a drop-off from a school that has a combined 27-1 record the past two seasons. Coach Chuck Lyon has 14 returning starters, the best among them being wide receivers Terence Scott (6-0, 175), who is NFL-fast, and Shane Morales (6-2, 195), a physical player; center Joey Miulli (6-0, 255), who anchors a tough offensive line; strong safety Allen Walker, who has a natural instinct for the game; and linebacker Wallace Bates, a transfer from Moorpark (Calif.) College. The defensive line, where five starters return, is tough, but the weak link may be at cornerback, given three defensive backs from last year's team signed with Pac-10 schools.

3 Butler County CC
(Kan.), 9-2

Not many teams could lose players the caliber of running back Kenny Wilson (Nebraska), defensive tackle Paul Griffin (Florida State) and wide receiver Anthony Parks (Oklahoma State) and not lose their footing. But at Butler, Coach Troy Morrell has an uncanny knack for plugging players into the right positions and then getting them to max out. Two of only three returning starters—linebacker David McDowell and strong safety Jonathan Warren—are among the best in the country. Quarterback Paul Eck, a sophomore who came to Butler from Ole Miss last season, will be improved after having gone around the Jayhawk Conference block once. Two years ago, the makeup of Morrell's team was much the same as it is now, and that group in 2004 made it to the NJCAA championship game. Hmm.

4 Glendale CC
(Ariz.), 11-0

Don't get this Glendale confused with the Glendale in California. Coach Joe Kersting, who is in his 16th season at the Arizona school, says that it happens often, so he makes sure that the "AZ" is visible on his outgoing mail and on his attire. While there are 37 returning lettermen, Kersting says the offense may not be as dynamic as last year's—tough to do given that team averaged 44.1 points a game—but that it will still be potent. The team's ringleaders look to be rangy wide receiver John Means (6-3, 185); linebacker Morris Wooten (6-1, 231), a physical and dominating player who moves extremely well from sideline to sideline; and defensive end Josh Galloway (6-2, 230), a speedy and crushing pass rusher.

5 City College of San Francisco
(Calif.), 10-2

Coach George Rush has long passed the biggest test of all: time. He annually produces good teams, but some are better than others. Rush, who became head coach at the juco in the city by the bay in 1977, sees plenty of positive signs as he enters his 30th season. Sophomore standout running back Tyreece Jacks, who has a 4.4 time in the 40, will have plenty of muscle in front of him in 6-5, 300-pound bookends Alesana Alesana of Western Samoa and Ako Poti, a local recruit. Defensively, expect big seasons from All-America linebacker Devin Bishop and strong safety De'Shon Sanders. While San Francisco (66-4 the last six seasons) loses at least a dozen solid players each year, Rush's teams always come on with a rush when it counts.

6 Trinity Valley CC
(Texas), 9-3

Coach Mark Sartain can still remember the special feeling he had when he was the offensive coordinator at Trinity prior to the 1994 season, when the Cardinals won the NJCAA championship. He has that feeling again, thanks in large part to the return of star running back Eric Ransom, who went to the same high school (University) in Waco, Texas, as San Diego Chargers star LaDainian Tomlinson. Ransom finished third last year in juco rushing, totaling 1,531 yards as a freshman. While Ransom and placekicker Sinisa Vrvilo are All-Americans, not far back are free safety Nevin McKenzie, a big hitter who has gotten stronger in the offseason, and QB Ben McMahan, an elusive athlete and quality passer.

7 Snow
(Utah), 10-2

As Snow's defensive coordinator the last six seasons, Steve Coburn poured his heart and soul into stopping opposing offenses. Now, as the Badgers' head coach, he'll try and maintain that same all-out effort on defense and offense. With 46 lettermen (five returning starters on offense and five on defense) to work with, he'll have lots of experience on the field. Quarterback Cade Cooper, a 6-2, 195-pounder who has a superb throwing arm, and feature back Matt Asiata will lead the offense. Defensively, 6-0, 309-pound tackle Tonga Tea will shake some offensive linemen up with his mere presence, while linebacker Jameson Fitt can hold his own anywhere on the field.

8 Reedley
(Calif.), 10-1

Coach Michael White's team has only a pair of starters returning, but that means little in a program that always lures top players to campus from around the nation. Quarterback Drew Branch, a non-starter a year ago, and wideout Jose Garcia, who started in 2005, will be one of the best offensive duos in the California juco ranks. Branch is solid (6-3, 210) and Garcia, who also returns kicks, is shifty and crafty like Barry Sanders. Also expect big things from Japanese kicker Lane Yoshida, who made 64 of 65 extra-point attempts last year, and freshman defensive tackle John Paul (6-5, 275) from Immokalee, Fla. Reedley is one of only a handful of schools in California with dorms for football players, which is why half of its 55-player roster is from outside the state.

9 El Camino CC
(Calif.), 11-1

A year ago, Coach John Featherstone's Warriors had one of the most breathtaking offenses at any collegiate level, averaging 481.9 yards and 43 points per game. It would be unrealistic to expect those kinds of numbers again, but do expect a staunch offense and a stingier defense this time around. Despite the fact 15 players exited with NCAA Division I-A scholarships, El Camino should again be a big winner. Quarterback Lyle Moevao, who threw for 2,652 yards and 29 TDs a year ago, leads the offense. He will get plenty of help from talented running back J.J. Bass, who averaged 7.2 yards per carry as a frosh; center/guard Sifa Moala, who anchors an offensive line that lost five starters; and wide receiver Kayne Farquharson. Defensively, look for good things from tackle Rolando Barragan and corner Damilyn Tanner.

10 Georgia Military
9-2

Seventh-year Coach Bert Williams' team's strength will come on offense, where there is talent and depth galore. The top returnee is QB Kelvin Todd, whom Williams says "runs like a scalded dog." Other returning standouts on offense include wide receiver Bobby Taylor, who averaged 21 yards per catch as a freshman, and Pedro Bennett, a 6-6, 355-pound behemoth who anchors the line. Add star freshman Dan Wideman, a prolific passer, and tailback James Poe III, a powerful runner, to the mix and the offense looks to be as good or better than any Williams has had in while at the school. Defensively, keep an eye on All-America linebacker Boston McCornell, who is fast and physical, and defensive end Jarius Wynn.

BEST OF THE REST

11	College of the Sequoias (Calif.), 8-3
12	Fresno City (Calif.), 7-3
13	Pearl River (Miss.) CC, 8-1
14	Blinn (Texas), 7-3
15	College of San Mateo (Calif.), 8-3
16	Coffeyville (Kan.) CC, 9-3
17	Mt. San Antonio (Calif.), 5-5
18	Iowa Central CC, 9-2
19	Grand Rapids (Mich.) CC, 9-2
20	Gulf Coast (Fla.) CC, 7-3
21	Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC, 8-3
22	Nassau (N.Y.) CC, 9-2
23	Moorpark (Calif.), 5-5
24	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, 9-3
25	Foothill (Calif.), 8-3

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

OFFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2006 SCHOOL)
Brent Schaeffer	QB	6-2, 195	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Mississippi)
Brian Flowers	RB	5-9, 190	El Camino, Calif. (Idaho)
Kenny Wilson	RB	6-0, 220	Butler, Kan. (Nebraska)
Dario Camacho	RB	5-10, 200	Citrus, Calif. (Purdue)
Corey Actis	OL	6-5, 295	Bakersfield, Calif. (Mississippi)
Brett Leeds	OL	6-4, 280	Glendale, Ariz. (New Mexico State)
Ofa Mohetau	OL	6-3, 340	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Texas Tech)
James Tretheway	OL	6-6, 300	San Mateo, Calif. (Arizona)
Brandon Walker	OL	6-3, 315	Coffeyville, Kan. (Oklahoma)
Maurice Purify	WR	6-4, 210	City College of San Francisco, Calif. (Nebraska)
Jeff Clark	TE	6-4, 235	L.A. Harbor, Calif. (San Jose State)

DEFENSE

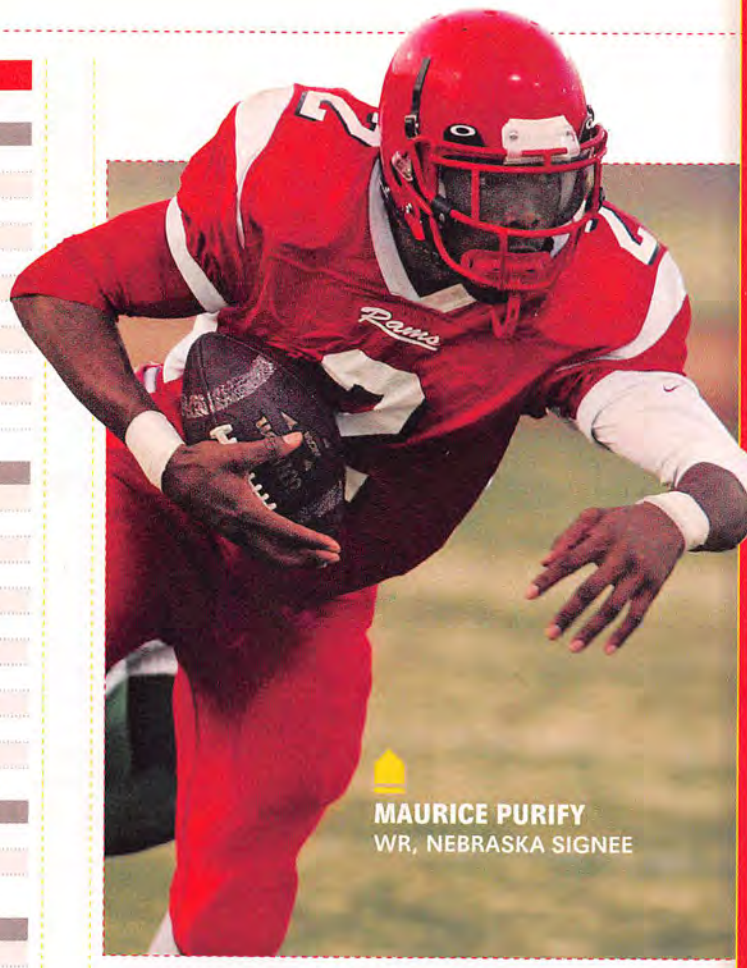
PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2006 SCHOOL)
Ervin Baldwin	DL	6-2, 252	Reedley, Calif. (Michigan State)
Walter Fisher	DL	6-3, 265	Coffeyville, Kan. (Tennessee)
Paul Griffin	DL	6-1, 287	Butler, Kan. (Florida State)
Sean Merrill	DL	6-4, 290	Gulf Coast, Miss. (Southern Miss)
Larry Grant	LB	6-3, 225	City College of San Francisco, Calif. (Ohio State)
Joey LaRocque	LB	6-4, 235	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Oregon State)
Misi Tupe	LB	5-11, 245	Dixie State, Utah (Texas A&M)
Nehemiah Warrick	DB	6-1, 198	Hutchinson, Kan. (Michigan State)
Scott Broughton	DB	6-1, 205	Georgia Military (Oklahoma State)
Andre Jones	DB	6-0, 195	Fresno City, Calif. (Nebraska)
Nate Ness	DB	6-2, 190	El Camino, Calif. (Arizona)

SPECIALISTS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2006 SCHOOL)
Jared Armstrong	P	6-3, 235	William Rainey Harper, Ill. (Purdue)
Darrell Hutsona	ATH	5-10, 185	Grossmont, Calif. (Washington State)

OTHERS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO (2006 SCHOOL)
Clarence Bailey	OL	6-7, 320	Lackawanna, Pa. (South Carolina)
Johnathan Batson	DB	6-2, 195	Cisco, Texas (Texas A&M)
Jeff Benjamin	DL	6-2, 260	Riverside, Calif. (Purdue)
Shannon Boatman	OL	6-7, 320	Tyler, Texas (Florida State)
Chris Bradwell	DL	6-4, 265	Northeast, Miss. (Troy)
Castine Bridges	DB	6-2, 195	Diablo Valley, Calif. (Missouri)
Casper Brinkley	LB	6-3, 250	Georgia Military (South Carolina)
Blake Bueltel	DB	6-1, 180	Butler, Kan. (Kansas)
J.D. Craigman	DL	6-4, 250	Mendocino, Calif. (Kentucky)
Marcus Cross	RB	5-11, 210	Garden City, Kan. (Utah State)
J.T. Deiderichs	RB	6-2, 235	Dixie State, Utah (Washington State)
Charles Dillon	WR	6-1, 180	Ventura, Calif. (Washington State)
Mark Dodge	LB	6-3, 235	Feather River, Calif. (Texas A&M)
Coye Francies	DB	6-1, 190	American River, Calif. (Oregon State)
Jeremy Gibbs	DL	6-2, 280	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (Oregon)
Victory Haines	OL	6-7, 285	Snow, Utah (Nebraska)
Bruce Hall	QB	6-0, 205	Northeast, Miss. (Mississippi)
J.D. Hamilton	OL	6-4, 300	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Mississippi State)
Ian Hammond	OL	6-3, 300	Saddleback, Calif. (Syracuse)
Omar Haugabook	QB	6-1, 200	Dodge City, Kan. (Troy)
Jason Hawkins	TE	6-3, 255	San Bernardino Valley, Calif. (Mississippi)
Louis Holmes	DE	6-5, 280	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Arizona)
James Johnson	RB	5-11, 200	Blinn, Texas (Kansas State)
Philip Loadholt	OL	6-9, 345	Garden City, Kan. (LSU)
Kenny Mahone	WR	6-2, 210	Mesa, Ariz. (Northern Arizona)
Moses Manu	DL	6-3, 260	El Camino, Calif. (Kansas State)
Sherrone Moore	OL	6-5, 300	Butler, Kan. (Oklahoma)
Carl Nicks	OL	6-5, 330	Hartnell, Calif. (Nebraska)
Jimmy Oliver	QB	6-0, 180	Pearl River, Miss. (Jackson State)
Ashlee Palmer	DB	6-2, 210	Compton, Calif. (Washington)
Anthony Parks	WR	6-0, 190	Butler, Kan. (Oklahoma State)
Angelo Richardson	WR	6-1, 185	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Arizona State)
Lowell Robinson	DB	6-0, 195	Erie, N.Y. (Pittsburgh)
Dantrell Savage	RB	5-9, 185	Gulf Coast, Miss. (Oklahoma State)
Dorian Smith	DL	6-3, 250	College of the Desert, Calif. (Oregon State)
Ryan Torain	RB	6-0, 205	Butler, Kan. (Arizona State)
Justin Tyron	DB	5-9, 185	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Arizona State)
Toddrick Verdell	ATH	6-3, 215	Butler, Kan. (Florida State)
Gerald Washington	TE	6-6, 255	Chaffey, Calif. (USC)
Roderkus Wright	DL	6-4, 275	Grossmont, Calif. (turned pro)



MAURICE PURIFY
WR, NEBRASKA SIGNEE

SUPER SOPHOMORES

OFFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Lyle Moevao	QB	6-0, 225	El Camino, Calif.
Joe Chatman	RB	5-10, 195	Fullerton, Calif.
Eric Ransom	RB	5-10, 185	Trinity Valley, Texas
Cameron Montgomery	RB	6-1, 210	Northeast, Miss.
Courtney Abbott	OL	6-8, 340	East Mississippi
Brody Dixon	OL	6-5, 310	William Rainey Harper, Ill.
C.J. Bryant	OL	6-2, 310	Grossmont, Calif.
Ako Poti	OL	6-5, 295	City College of San Francisco
Larry So'oalo	OL	6-4, 310	Fresno City, Calif.
Roger Frazier	WR	6-1, 180	Hutchinson, Kan.
Brennan Houston	TE	6-4, 265	Cerritos, Calif.

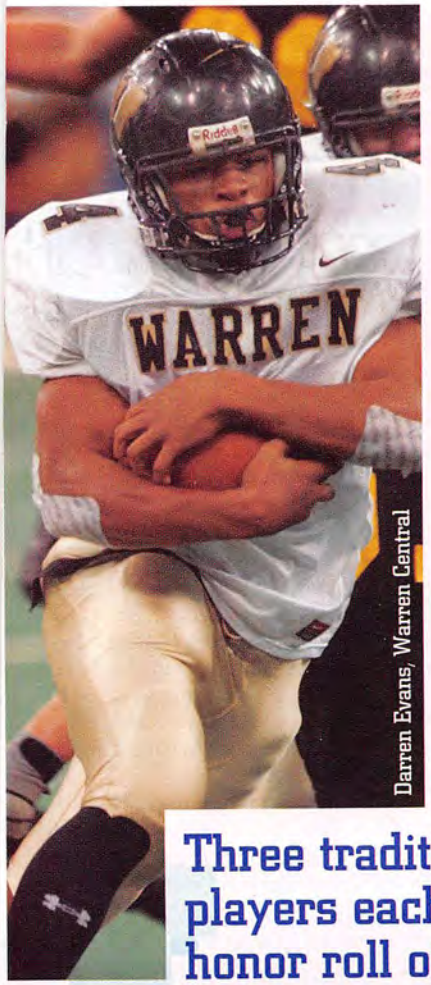
DEFENSE

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Kellen Belcher	DL	6-3, 280	Dodge City, Kan.
Magnum Mauga	DL	6-0, 265	Grossmont, Calif.
Luis Vasquez	DL	6-3, 250	Arizona Western
Josh Galloway	DL	6-3, 230	Glendale, Ariz.
Devin Bishop	LB	6-3, 230	City College of San Francisco
Boston McCornell	LB	6-2, 235	Georgia Military
David McDowell	LB	6-2, 245	Butler, Kan.
Gary Chandler	DB	5-10, 180	Coffeyville, Kan.
Terry Mixon	DB	6-1, 190	Grossmont, Calif.
Ryan Mouton	DB	5-11, 190	Blinn, Texas
Woodny Turenne	DB	6-1, 180	College of Sequoias, Calif.

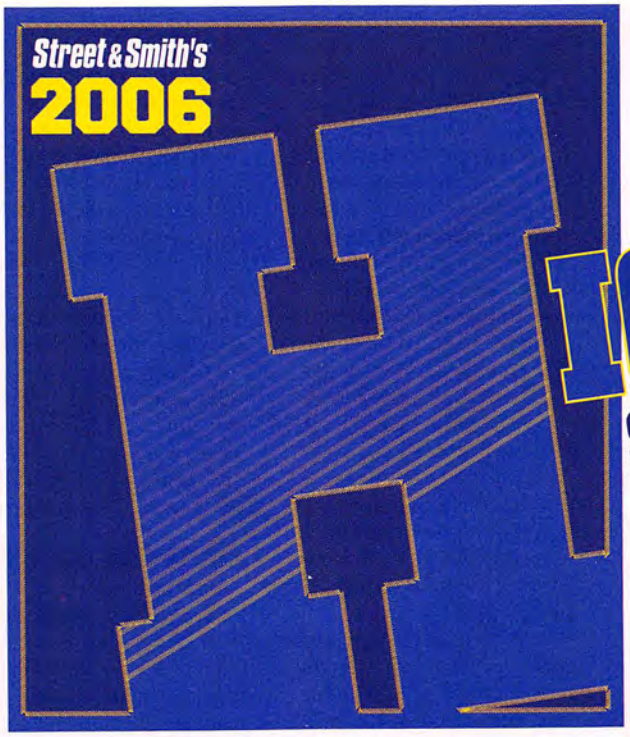
SPECIALISTS

PLAYER	POS.	HT, WT.	JUCO
Aaron Woods	AP	5-9, 185	Santa Rosa, Calif.
Sinisa Vrvilo	PK	6-1, 230	Trinity Valley, Texas

GARY KAZANJIAN / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



Darren Evans, Warren Central



HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Three traditional prep powers own two players each on our 25th annual Top 50 honor roll of high school football stars.

By Doug Huff

Leading the way on the 25th annual *Street & Smith's* High School All-America Football Team are three talent-laden high schools—Lakeland, Fla., Oaks Christian of Westlake Village, Calif., and Warren Central in Indianapolis—each with two players on the 50-member honor roll, which includes representatives from 22 states.

The Lakeland High selections are running back Chris Rainey and defensive lineman John Brown, who have helped the Dreadnaughts win their last 30 games and two consecutive state Class 5A titles. Oaks Christian is represented by quarterback Jimmy Clausen and utility choice Marc Tyler, a running back/linebacker. From Warren Central High are running back Darren Evans and defensive back Jeremy Finch.

Florida leads the honor roll with seven selections, while California and Texas have six each. Georgia comes in with five players honored.

Sixteen of the Top 50 rising seniors had committed to college scholarship offers by early spring. The defending national champion, the University of Texas, had verbal commitments from three of the Top 50 players from in-state schools: offensive linemen Tray Allen of South Grand Prairie High and Matt Nader of Austin Westlake High, and defensive lineman Andre Jones of El Paso Andress.

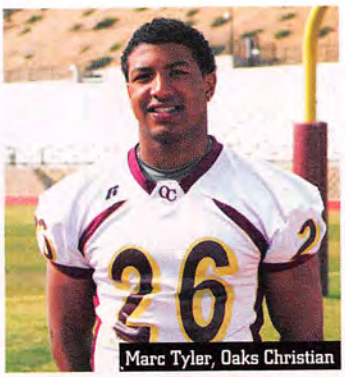
Michigan, Florida and Georgia had received two commitments each. The Wolverines were the early choice for both Finch and quarterback Ryan Mallett of Texarkana, Texas. Florida landed Rainey and tight end Aaron Hernandez of Bristol Central in Connecticut. Georgia nabbed two in-state prospects in linebacker Rennie Curran of Brookwood High and offensive lineman Tanner Strickland of Berrien County in Nashville.

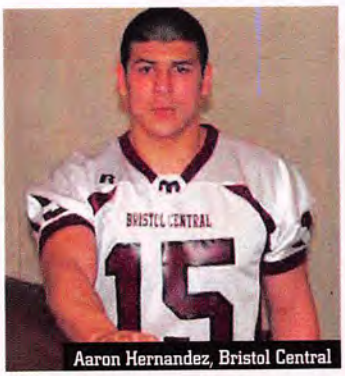
Other early verbal commitments include Clausen to Notre Dame; QB Pat Bostick of Manheim Township High in Lancaster, Pa., to Pittsburgh; QB Chris Forcier of St. Augustine High in San Diego to UCLA; offensive lineman Josh Oglesby of St. Francis High in Milwaukee to Wisconsin; linebacker Christopher Galippo of Servite High in Anaheim, Calif., to USC; and linebacker Chris Strong of South Panola High in Batesville, Miss., to Ole Miss.

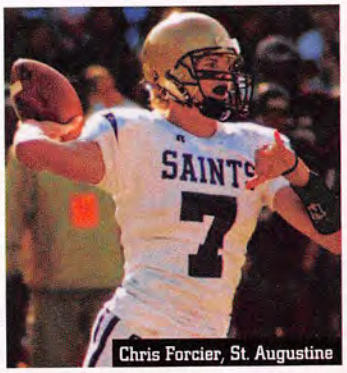
Here's a position-by-position breakdown of *Street & Smith's* Top 50 selections:

★ QUARTERBACKS

Two of the seven honorees are from California—Clausen and Forcier.


Marc Tyler, Oaks Christian


Aaron Hernandez, Bristol Central


Chris Forcier, St. Augustine

Christopher Galippo, Servite

Noel Devine, North Fort Myers

Jason Munns, Southridge

Clausen enters the season with 7,314 career passing yards, 97 touchdowns and has completed 435 of 676 attempts. As a sophomore, he passed for 3,676 yards and 57 TDs. Last season, he completed 157 of 233 passes for 2,778 yards and 30 TDs, throwing only five interceptions. As for Forcier, he completed 182 of 311 throws last season for 2,634 yards and 32 TDs, with only eight interceptions. He also rushed for 415 yards and four scores.

Will Korn set numerous state records last season, throwing for 4,164 yards and 53 touchdowns for unbeaten powerhouse James Byrnes High in Duncan, S.C.

Mallett, who is rated by some scouting services as having the strongest throwing arm in this group, connected on 135 of 221 passes for 2,219 yards and 21 TDs, throwing only six interceptions last season.

Bostick made headlines when he passed for seven TDs in one half of a game as a sophomore, and in two years he has passed for more than 5,000 yards and 62 TDs. Last season, the All-State pick was 181-of-295 for 2,810 yards and 34 TDs, while getting picked off only six times.

In New Jersey, Matt Simms is a two-time all-state selection at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey. The four-year varsity veteran is the son of ex-NFL QB Phil Simms.

Washington's top signal-caller is Jason Munns. Last season, he completed 160 of 259 passes for 2,178 yards and 32 TDs. He has thrown for 4,534 yards and 64 TDs in his career.

★ RUNNING BACKS

Pick your rusher, as it is loaded this year, beginning with Rainey, a two-year All-State pick who plays for the unbeaten state championship team at Lakeland High. The Florida Gators recruit is also a top track sprinter and long jumper, and is one of two tailback honorees from Florida.

The other Sunshine State back is Noel Devine of North Fort Myers High. The explosive runner chalked up more than 1,900 rushing yards last season after gaining almost 2,000 as a sophomore.

The Midwest representatives at this position start with two-time Wisconsin All-State selection John Clay, who led Racine Park High to the Division 1 state title last season while rushing 166 times for 2,032 yards and 30 TDs. Clay, who is being touted as one of the state's best all-time backs, was named the 2005 EA Sports National Junior of the Year.

Evans was the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year in 2004 when he scored 27 TDs and rushed for more than 2,000 yards for Warren Central High's Class 5A Indiana title team. Last season, he scored 39 TDs and surpassed 2,000 rushing yards to collect another state title.

The top running backs in Illinois and Georgia are Robert Hughes of Hubbard High in Chicago and Caleb King of

DEVINE: COURTESY JAMES LAMONT/NORTH FT. MYERS HS

TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS TO WATCH

QUARTERBACKS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Pat Bostick	6-4	220	Manheim Township	Lancaster, PA
Jimmy Clausen	6-3	200	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, CA
Chris Forcier	6-3	182	St. Augustine	Carlsbad, CA
Will Korn	6-2	200	Byrnes	Duncan, SC
Ryan Mallett	6-6	230	Texas	Texarkana, TX
Jason Munns	6-6	225	Southridge	Kennewick, WA
Matt Simms	6-2	190	Don Bosco Prep	Franklin Lakes, NJ

RUNNING BACKS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
John Clay	6-3	230	Racine Park	Racine, WI
Noel Devine	5-8	180	North Fort Myers	North Fort Myers, FL
Darren Evans	6-0	208	Warren Central	Indianapolis, IN
Robert Hughes	6-0	220	Hubbard	Chicago, IL
Caleb King	5-11	186	Parkview	Lilburn, GA
Chris Rainey	5-8	160	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL

UTILITY PLAYERS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Kodi Burns	6-1	190	Northside	Fort Smith, AR
Kelvin Grady	5-11	175	East Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids, MI
Joe McKnight	6-0	190	John Curtis Christian	River Ridge, LA
Tyrod Taylor	6-1	185	Hampton	Hampton, VA
Marc Tyler	6-0	215	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, CA

WIDE RECEIVERS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Arrelious Benn	6-2	210	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Marques Simas	6-2	190	Mira Mesa	San Diego, CA
Deonte Thompson	6-0	186	Glades Central	Belle Glades, FL

TIGHT ENDS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Aaron Hernandez	6-4	235	Bristol Central	Bristol, CT

KICKERS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Michael Taylor	5-10	175	Washington	Pensacola, FL
Jimmy Stevens	5-7	155	Heritage Hall	Oklahoma City, OK

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Tray Allen	6-4	305	South Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie, TX
Javario Burkes	6-6	325	Moon Valley	Phoenix, AZ
Anthony Davis	6-6	315	Piscataway	Piscataway, NJ
Ryan Miller	6-7	285	Columbine	Littleton, CO
Matt Nader	6-6	295	Westlake	Austin, TX
Josh Oglesby	6-7	320	St. Francis	Milwaukee, WI
Tanner Strickland	6-4	315	Berrien County	Nashville, GA
James Wilson	6-5	305	Nease	St. Augustine, FL
Lee Ziemba	6-7	305	Rogers	Rogers, AR

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Marvin Austin	6-3	300	Calvin Coolidge	Washington, DC
John Brown	6-1	285	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
Everson Griffen	6-4	263	Agua Fria	Avondale, AZ
Andre Jones	6-4	305	Andress	El Paso, TX
Ben Martin	6-5	220	La Salle	Cincinnati, OH

LINEBACKERS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Allen Bailey	6-3	252	McIntosh Co. Academy	Darien, GA
Rennie Curran	5-10	200	Brookwood	Lilburn, GA
Christopher Galippo	6-3	230	Servite	Anaheim, CA
Richetti Jones	6-3	230	Lincoln	Dallas, TX
Chris Strong	6-2	240	South Panola	Batesville, MS

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	HT	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Dionte Allen	6-0	175	St. Mary Prep	Orchard Lake, MI
Eric Berry	6-0	180	Creekside	Fairburn, GA
Eugene Clifford	6-3	200	Colerain	Cincinnati, OH
Tekerrian Cuba	6-2	185	Robert E. Lee	Tyler, TX
Lorenzo Edwards	6-2	217	Edgewater	Orlando, FL
Jeremy Finch	6-3	200	Warren Central	Indianapolis, IN
Donovan Warren	5-11	175	Long Beach Polytechnic	Long Beach, CA

Parkview High in Lilburn, Ga.—both highly coveted college recruits.

UTILTY PLAYERS

Kodi Burns is a two-time All-State choice at QB for Northside High in Fort Smith, Ark. The versatile threat has amassed 5,963 total yards in two years. Last season, he passed for 2,182 yards and 20 TDs and rushed for 965. As a sophomore, he gained 1,935 yards with 21 TDs through the air and rushed for 881.

Two-way back Kelvin Grady of East Grand Rapids, Mich., was the only junior on the Super All-State Team last year. He rushed for 1,716 yards and 21 TDs in nine games.

Louisiana's top player, Joe McKnight, led John Curtis Christian of River Ridge to its 20th state championship last season by scoring three long-distance TDs (including one on a punt return) in the title game. The state Class 2A Defensive Player of the Year returned two of his five interceptions for scores and was a do-it-all player on both sides of the ball.

Like Burns, Tyrod Taylor was a pass-run threat. He led Hampton High in Virginia to a 13-1 record and a state 3A title, passing for 1,485 yards and nine TDs and rushing for 1,005 yards and 21 TDs. In his career, he has 71 total TDs and 5,500 yards.

Tyler, the son of former 49ers and Rams running back Wendell Tyler, was named state Junior Player of the Year by *CalHiSports.com*. He scored 45 total TDs and averaged 12 yards a carry with 2,196 yards on the ground. He also caught 28 passes for 413 yards. On defense, Tyler was a standout linebacker.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Three productive receivers earn the All-America nod.

Arrelious Benn of Dunbar High in Washington, D.C., caught 50 passes for 1,126 yards and 17 TDs as a junior all-star selection. Mira Mesa (Calif.) High's Marques Simas recorded 41 catches last season for 875 yards and 16 scores.

Florida is the home of several touted receivers, but Deonte Thompson of Glades Central High in Belle Glade heads the list after catching 12 TD passes and taking six kick returns for scores as a junior.

John Clay, Racine Park

MURRY GASH / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

TIGHT END

Hernandez (6-4, 235) earned All-State honors on offense and defense as a junior at Bristol. In 10 games, he set state records with 1,807 receiving yards and 24 TDs. He caught 67 passes, including nine in one game for 376 yards. As a defensive end, he had 12 sacks and blocked four kicks.

KICKERS

Michael Taylor of Washington High in Pensacola, Fla., converted 12 of 17 field-goal attempts last season, including a 57-yard try, and booted 48 of 62 kickoffs into the end zone.

Heritage Hall (Okla.) High's Jimmy Stevens tied a national record with 22 regular-season field goals and can connect on 50-plus-yard attempts.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The preps just seem to get bigger and bigger on the O-line, as the nine honored blockers in the trenches are an average 6-foot-7 and 309 pounds.

Two of the massive teenagers hail from Texas and are the previously mentioned Longhorn commitments—Allen (6-4, 305) and Nader (6-6, 295).

Ryan Miller (6-7, 285), a three-sport performer at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo., was charted with 43 pancake blocks last season while allowing no sacks. He's also a thrower for track and field and a wrestler. Lee Ziemba (6-7, 305) is an All-State selection from Rogers, Ark., who recorded 25 pancake blocks and 25 knock-down blocks in a dominating junior campaign.

Other top linemen are Javario Burkes (6-6, 325) of Moon Valley High in Phoenix; Anthony Davis (6-6, 315) of Piscataway, N.J.; James Wilson (6-5, 305) of Nease High in St. Augustine, Fla.; plus Oglesby (6-7, 320) and Strickland (6-4, 315).

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The defensive front hails from four states and the District of Columbia, and is led by Marvin Austin (6-3, 300) from Calvin Coolidge High in Washington, D.C. The two-time area all-star had 12 tackles for loss, eight sacks and five forced fumbles last year.

Florida's No. 1 ranked team, Lakeland High, features John Brown (6-1, 285). Some recruiting services think he might be the top overall prospect in the talent-rich state this season.

Everson Griffen (6-4, 263) of Agua Fria High in Avondale, Ariz., is rated by some recruiting services as the nation's best at his position.

Andress High's Jones (6-4, 305) was an All-State honoree in Texas last season.

Ohio's top prospect is defensive end Ben Martin (6-5, 225) from La Salle High in Cincinnati. He had 28 solo stops, 42 assists, 10 sacks and 15 tackles for loss last season.

LINEBACKERS

Three of the five honored defenders have already committed to colleges, one being Georgia recruit Curran (5-10, 200), who led Bookwood in tackles the last two seasons. He had 198 stops as a junior and 145 as a sophomore.

Galippo (6-3, 230) was charted with 161 stops in 2005, including 112 solo tackles, eight tackles for loss and five blocked kicks. Strong (6-2, 240) may have missed much of his sophomore season with an injury, but bounced back to lead South Panola to a third straight state title. He was credited with 73 solo stops, 21 assists and four sacks.

The other honored linebackers both earned All-State recognition as juniors—Allan Bailey (6-3, 252) of McIntosh County Academy in Darien, Ga., and Richetti Jones (6-3, 230) of Lincoln High in Dallas.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Versatility is the common thread among these seven secondary selections. They all can play multiple positions, as does Dionte Allen of St. Mary Prep in Orchard Lake, Mich., who has also lined up at wide receiver.

Eric Berry of Creekside High in Fairbun, Ga., takes the snaps at quarterback when not starring on defense. Colerain (Ohio) High's Eugene Clifford is also a kick returner and wide receiver, and plays basketball and runs track. During last football season, he returned two of his six interceptions for scores and two punts for TDs. He was charted with 37 tackles and 25 assists.

Tekerrian Cuba was the leading tackler the last two years for Robert E. Lee High in Tyler, Texas, and is athletic enough to be utilized at other positions.

Four-year starter Lorenzo Edwards, of Edgewater High in Orlando, can play cornerback, safety, rover, linebacker or receiver.

Finch not only plays in the secondary, but is also a regular at wide receiver and punter. He had 10 interceptions last season and was credited with 53 solo stops and 29 assists.

Donovan Warren is the latest touted defensive back from the Poly football factory in Long Beach, Calif., which has produced more NFL players than any other school. The athletic Jackrabbit also can play the offensive skill positions, too.

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

QUARTERBACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Zach Anderson	Yamhill-Carlton	Yamhill, OR
Robert Arnheim	Edgewater	Orlando, FL
Cory Bean	Hillsboro	Hillsboro, OR
Clay Belton	Northmont	Clayton, OH
T.C. Borcky	Lake Highland Prep	Orlando, FL
John Brantley	Trinity Catholic	Ocala, FL
Robbie Brown	Thomas	Webster, NY
Tyler Bruce	Tri-West	Lizton, IN
Marcus Brumm	Lakeville South	Lakeville, MN
Nathan Bussey	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Lee Chapple	Greater Atlanta Christian	Norcross, GA
Audie Cole	Monroe	Monroe, MI
Rodney Cox	Harnett Central	Angier, NC
L.D. Crow	Countryside	Clearwater, FL
Jermain Delgardo	Rainier Beach	Seattle, WA
Nathan Dick	Allen	Allen, TX
Chris Dwyer	St. Mary's	Worchester, MA
Mitchell Evans	Milton-Union	West Milton, OH
Nick Fanuzzi	Churchill	San Antonio, TX
Stephen Garcia	Jefferson	Tampa, FL
Perci Garner	Dover	Dover, OH
Brent Goska	Lincoln	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Logan Gray	Rock Bridge	Columbia, MO
Phil Haig	Henry Sibley	Mendota Heights, MN
Jamie Hampton	Cedar Bluff	Cedar Bluff, AL
Chris Hart	Southeast	Bradenton, FL
Justin Hickman	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Wes Kimmel	Hutchinson	Hutchinson, KS
G.J. Kinne	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Peter Lalich	West Springfield	Springfield, VA
Jarrett Lee	Brenham	Brenham, TX
Stefan Loucks	Pulaski Academy	Little Rock, AR
Randall Mackey	Bastrop	Bastrop, LA
Darryl McFadden	Independence	Charlotte, NC
Kellen Moore	Prosser	Prosser, WA
Pete Murdaca	St. Mary's	Stockton, CA
Josh Nesbitt	Greene County	Greensboro, GA
Keith Nichol	Lowell	Lowell, MI
Mike Paulus	Christian Brothers	Syracuse, NY
Griffin Robles	Spanish Fork	Spanish Fork, UT
Charlie Russell	Morgantown	Morgantown, WV
Justin Siller	St. Mary's	Orchard Lake, MI
Chris Smith	South Point	South Point, OH
Greg Sullivan	Monroe-Woodbury	Central Valley, NY
Conner Teahan	Rockhurst	Kansas City, MO
Alton Voss	Gulf	New Port Richey, FL
Dallas Walker	Madison Ridgeland	Madison, MS
Chris Whitney	St. Joseph's	Philadelphia, PA
Russell Wilson	Collegiate	Richmond, VA
Mark Wright	Warner Robins	Warner Robins, GA

RUNNING BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Armando Allen	Miami Lakes	Hialeah, FL
Victor Anderson	St. Xavier	Louisville, KY
Chris Batie	Gainesville	Gainesville, FL
Doug Beaumont	Male	Louisville, KY
Dee Bell	Olathe East	Olathe, KS
Mike Brown	Brandon	Brandon, FL
Raymond Carter	Crenshaw	Los Angeles, CA
Kevin Crouse	Pulaski County	Dublin, VA
Enrique Davis	Mosley	Lynn Haven, FL
Jonathan Dwyer	Kell	Marietta, GA
Antawn Easterling	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Robert Elliott	Okolona	Okolona, MS
Troy Evans	Hayward	Hayward, CA
Paul Galloway	Shrine	Royal Oak, MI
Silas Gibbs	Clinton	Clinton, LA
Justan Gibson	Byrd	Shreveport, LA
John Gordon	Taunton	Taunton, MA
Jeramie Griffin	South Panola	Batesville, MS
Willie Griffin	McClymonds	Oakland, CA
Aaron Harris	Baldwin Park	Baldwin Park, CA
Tommy Henry	Maiden	Maiden, NC
Daniel Herron	Warren Harding	Warren, OH
Daries Hodge	Glen Mills	Concordville, PA
Cody Johnson	Waller	Waller, TX
Brandon Johnson	Dominguez	Compton, CA
Terrence Kerns	Thomas Johnson	Frederick, MD
Dale Martin	Bolingbrook	Bolingbrook, IL
Xavier Martin	Xaverian	Brooklyn, NY
Juan Martinez	La Joya	La Joya, TX
Darius Mitchell	Baldwin	Baldwin, GA
Ahmed Mokhtar	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, CA
J.J. Mullins	Clear Creek	League City, TX
Josh Oglesby	Garner	Garner, NC
Orion Ponder	Colquitt County	Moultrie, GA
Devon Ramsey	Lawrenceville School	Lawrenceville, NJ
Joseph Reese	Hendrickson	Pflugerville, TX
Brandon Rutley	Alhambra	Martinez, CA
Brandon Saine	Piqua	Piqua, OH
Carter Sharpe	Smith	Fayetteville, NC
Kevin Simmons	Kempsville	Virginia Beach, VA
Hosea Simpson	Winton Woods	Cincinnati, OH
Ollie Sloup	Southwest	Lincoln, NE
Lamont Smith	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA
Malcolm Smith	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Bradley Stephens	Memorial	McAllen, TX
Quan Warley	Thomasville	Thomasville, NC
Derrick Washington	Raymore-Peculiar	Peculiar, MO
Foswhitt Whittaker	Pearland	Pearland, TX
Jonathan Williams	Rose	Greenville, SC
Morgan Williams	McKinley	Canton, OH
Nate Williams	Kennedy	Burien, WA

UTILITY PLAYERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Nick Adams	Colleton County	Walterboro, SC
Anthony Anderson	Austin-East	Knoxville, TN
David Arnold	Copley	Copley, OH
Eric Baker	Ed White	Jacksonville, FL
Mark Barnes	Richland Northeast	Columbia, SC
Vincent Browne	David Anderson	Lisbon, OH
Morgan Burnett	North Clayton	College Park, GA
Sean Cattouse	Hubbard	Chicago, IL
John Chiles	Summit	Mansfield, TX
Leroy Diggs	South Panola	Batesville, MS
J.J. DiLuigi	Canyon	Canyon Country, CA
Kawika Emsley-Pai	Jackson	Mill Creek, WA
Jacobi Fenner	Hampton	Hampton, VA
Brian Gamble	Washington	Massillon, OH
Chris Givens	Chillicothe	Chillicothe, OH
Broderick Green	Pulaski Academy	Little Rock, AR
Joseph Haden	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Vince Helmuth	Saline	Saline, MI
Junior Hemingway	Conway	Conway, SC
John Hughes	Lincoln	Gahanna, OH
Anthony Jacobs	Northfield	Northfield, MN
Drexler Johnson	Wayne County	Waynesboro, MS
Sheldon Johnson	Deptford	Deptford, NJ
DeAngelo Jones	Foothill	Henderson, NV
Connor Kavanaugh	Lincoln	Portland, OR
Kellen Kiilsgaard	Auburn	Auburn, WA
Tony Kubes	New Prague	New Prague, MN
Dion Lecorn	Trinity Catholic	Ocala, FL
Malachi Lewis	Rio Mesa	Oxnard, CA
Phillip Livas	South Terrabonne	Bourg, LA
Tony Logan	Piscataway	Piscataway, NJ
Ryan Matthews	West	Bakersfield, CA
Mike McDonough	Covina	Covina, CA
Cameron Newton	Westlake	Atlanta, GA
Steve Paskorz	Hampton	Allison Park, PA
Sam Proctor	Dobie	Pasadena, CA
Alondre Rush	Xavier	Middletown, CT
Nathan Sherr	Austin Prep	Reading, MA
John Stamper	West Forsyth	Clemmons, NC
Quantavius Sturdivant	West Stanly	Oakboro, NC
Devon Torrence	South	Canton, OH
Deontay Twyman	Sherwood	Sandy Spring, MD
Shane Vereen	Valencia	Valencia, CA
Mike Williams	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Russell Wilson	Collegiate	Richmond, VA

WIDE RECEIVERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Devin Aguilar	Mullen Prep	Denver, CO
Curtis Brown	Gilmer	Gilmer, TX
Alphonso Bryant	Homestead	Homestead, FL
Dez Bryant	Lufkin	Lufkin, TX
Gabe Bryant	Jonesboro-Hodge	Jonesboro, LA
Kris Burd	Matoaca	Chesterfield, VA
Ty Bynum	Conestoga Valley	Lancaster, PA
Michael Calvin	San Lorenzo	San Lorenzo, CA
Todd Campbell	Franklin	Franklin, TN
Matt Clements	Barron Collier	Naples, FL
Shamaar Coates	Williamsport	Williamsport, PA
Andrew Davis	Montbello	Denver, CO
Reggie Dunn	Verbum Dei	Los Angeles, CA
Xavier Dye	Greenwood	Greenwood, SC
Jimmer Fredette	Glens Falls	Glens Falls, NY
Jason Frierson	Coral Gables	Coral Gables, FL
Michael Fuda	Katy	Katy, TX
David Gilreath	Armstrong	Plymouth, MN
Kyle Jefferson	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Kyle Hubbard	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Dan Ifft	Dover	Dover, OH
John Keye	Jackson	Jackson, GA
Brandon Kinnie	Grandview	Grandview, MO
James Kirkendoll	Round Rock	Round Rock, TX
Marquis Kirkland	Henninger	Syracuse, NY
Duval Kumara	Hoboken	Hoboken, NJ

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Greg Little	Hillside	Durham, NC
Tyler Maples	Maryville	Maryville, TN
Dyril McCain	Maury	Norfolk, VA
Justin McCombs	Bandys	Catawba, NC
Brent McElfresh	Stephenville	Stephenville, TX
Deon Miller	Lawton	Lawton, OK
Matt Mitchell	Chippewa Falls	Chippewa Falls, WI
Anthony Morris	Thornton	Harvey, IL
Ahmad Paige	Sterlington	Sterlington, LA
Jordan Pendleton	Bingham	South Jordan, UT
Trey Ray	Thomasville	Thomasville, NC
Karon Robinson	Woodrow Wilson	Camden, NJ
Colin Sandeman	Bettendorf	Bettendorf, IA
Carlos Smith	Harrisburg	Harrisburg, PA
Brandon Taylor	Franklinton	Franklinton, LA
Carter Todd	Merced	Merced, CA
Terrance Toliver	Hempstead	Hempstead, TX
Nick Toon	Middleton	Middleton, WI
Taurian Washington	St. Mary's	Orchard Lake, MI
Lansford Watson	Lincoln	Brooklyn, NY
Malcolm Williams	Garland	Garland, TX
Paul Wilson	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL

TIGHT ENDS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Matt Balasavage	Lancaster Catholic	Lancaster, PA
Nate Chandler	Mira Mesa	San Diego, CA
Jack DiNardo	Hinsdale Central	Hinsdale, IL
Jon Ditto	Gateway	Monroeville, PA
Kevin Estes	Benedictine	Richmond, VA
Bruce Figgins	Shaw	Columbus, GA
Grant Freeman	Paris	Paris, AR
Rob Gronkowski	North	Williamsville, NY
Jordan Hammond	Lakeland	Lakeland, OH
Ahmard Howard	Brenham	Brenham, TX
Blaine Irby	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Kyle Jefferson	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Mitch Joseph	Catholic	New Iberia, LA
DeAngelo McCray	Jackson	Jacksonville, FL
Rennie Moore	Camden County	Kingsland, GA
Zach Pianalto	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Mike Ragone	Camden Catholic	Cherry Hill, NJ
Jordan Scoggins	Trinity	Euless, TX
Zach Smith	West Deptford	West Deptford, NJ
Nate Stupar	State College	State College, PA
Chris Weitzel	Gresham	Gresham, OR

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Josh Allison	Lake Orion	Lake Orion, MI
Chris Andrews	Nottingham	Syracuse, NY
William Alvarez	C.D. Hylton	Woodbridge, VA
Colin Armstrong	Benet Academy	Lisle, IL
Clyde Aufner	Raymore-Peculiar	Peculiar, MO
Devon Ayers	Neptune	Neptune, NJ
Joseph Barksdale	Cass Tech	Detroit, MI
Dan Barry	Lake Catholic	Mentor, OH
Jeff Battipaglia	St. Joseph's	Philadelphia, PA
Blake Behrens	Brophy Prep	Phoenix, AZ
Bryan Bulaga	Marian Central	Woodstock, IL
Matt Bush	Bergen Catholic	Oradell, NJ
Mike Caputo	Millard North	Omaha, NE
Micah Carter	Woodrow Wilson	Beckley, WV
Carlos Ceuvas	Plano	Plano, TX
Darion Church	Lake Taylor	Norfolk, VA
Martin Coleman	Edison	Huntington Beach, CA
Wayne Crawford	Chestnut Hill	Philadelphia, PA
Brandon Curry	Boyd Anderson	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
Trey Davis	Farmington	Farmington, MN
Sam DeMartinis	Notre Dame	Sherman Oaks, CA
Daniel Donker	Eastern	Voorhees, NJ
Kyle Dooley	Papillion-LaVista	Papillion, NE

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Terence Edge	Tri-Cities	East Point, GA
Lonnie Edwards	Brownsboro	Brownsboro, TX
Evan Eike	Bryan	Bryan, TX
John Elliott	East Meadow	East Meadow, NY
Marquis Franklin	John Tyler	Tyler, TX
Will Furlong	DeLand	DeLand, FL
Garth Gerhart	Norco	Norco, CA
Adam Gettis	Lincoln Way East	Frankfort, IL
Sergio Glenn	North Forsyth	Winston-Salem, NC
Jerrod Gooch	Vidor	Vidor, TX
Gino Gradkowski	Seton LaSalle	Pittsburgh, PA
Antwane Greenlee	Hardaway	Columbus, GA
Harland Gunn	Central	Omaha, NE
Maurice Hampton	Phoebus	Hampton, VA
Jason Hannan	Waxahachie	Waxahachie, TX
Michael Hay	Holy Cross	Flushing, NY
Andrew Higgins	Duluth	Duluth, GA
Stuart Hines	Bowling Green	Bowling Green, KY
Kyle Hix	Aledo	Aledo, TX
Todd Huber	Peninsula	Rolling Hills Estates, CA
Michael Huey	Kilgore	Kilgore, TX
Emeka Iweka	Rainier Beach	Seattle, WA
Chris Jacobson	Keystone Oaks	Pittsburgh, PA
Nick Jenkins	Good Counsel	Wheaton, MD
Rishaw Johnson	Hammond	Hammond, LA
Michael Lamb	Jesuit	Portland, OR
Chris Little	Twiggs County	Jeffersonville, GA
Dan Matha	McDowell	Erie, PA
Ernest McCoy	Glades Central	Belle Glade, FL
Tyler McDermott	Palm Beach Central	Wellington, FL
Andre McGaskey	La Marque	La Marque, TX
Lamar Milstead	Coolidge	Washington, DC
David Molk	Lemont	Lemont, IL
Anthony Morgan	Lancaster	Lancaster, TX
J.P. Nisby	St. Mary's	Stockton, CA
Wilson Norris	Pickens	Pickens, SC
Emeka Nwankwo	Chaminade-Madonna	Hollywood, FL
Kris O'Dowd	Salpointe Catholic	Tucson, AZ
Trevor Olson	Richfield	Richfield, MN
Seth Oxner	Monticello	Monticello, AR
Garrett Pendergast	Servite	Anaheim, CA
James Pouncy	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
LaShawn Pouncy	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
Markeece Preston	Paterson Catholic	Paterson, NJ
Houston Reynolds	Timpview	Provo, UT
Quintin Richardson	Spring Valley	Columbia, SC
Dustin Robinson	Belleview	Belleview, FL
Matt Romine	Tulsa Union	Tulsa, OK
Chris Sale	Niceville	Niceville, FL
Levi Salmans	Monarch	Louisville, CO
A.J. Savaii	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Darris Sawtelle	Brother Rice	Birmingham, MI
Nick Schepis	Walsh Jesuit	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Mitchell Schwartz	Palisades	Pacific Palisades, CA
Derek Sherrod	Caledonia	Columbus, MS
Paul Simkovich	Greater Latrobe	Latrobe, PA
Matt Simmons	Racine Park	Racine, WI
David Smith	Greenville	Greenville, SC
Chad Snodgrass	Nitro	Nitro, WV
Stephen St. John	Dutch Fork	Irmo, SC
Miles Stroter	King	Chicago, IL
Joe Thompson	Ravenwood	Brentwood, TN
Spencer Thompson	Plainview	Plainville, TX
Brandon Washington	Edison	Miami, FL
Darian Weems	Taft	Woodland Hills, CA
Josh White	Wicomico	Salisbury, MD
Alex Williams	Landry	New Orleans, LA

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Akeem Ayers	Verbum Dei	Los Angeles, CA
Will Blackwell	West Monroe	West Monroe, LA
Kevin Bryant	Hallandale	Hallandale, FL
Jontae Bumpus	Muskogee	Muskogee, OK
Victor Butler	Leavenworth	Leavenworth, KS
Marcus Campbell	Bloomfield	Bloomfield, CT
Tonio Celotto	Royal	Simi Valley, CA
Jacody Coleman	West Brook	Beaumont, TX

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Matt Conrath	St. Rita	Chicago, IL
Sidell Corley	McGill-Toolen	Mobile, AL
Torrey Davis	Armwood	Seffner, FL
Joey D'Andrea	Upper Arlington	Upper Arlington, OH
Carlos Dunlap	Ft. Dorchester	North Charleston, SC
Corey Eason	Mansfield	Mansfield, MA
Will Eilert	Grinnell	Grinnell, IA
Simi Fili	Cottonwood	Salt Lake City, UT
Marcus Forston	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Mike Gerrity	Batavia	Batavia, IL
Larry Gooden	McKeesport	McKeesport, PA
Jervon Graves	Olathe South	Olathe, KS
B.J. Guerra	Moses Lake	Moses Lake, WA
Jazzmen Guy	Hazlehurst	Hazlehurst, MS
Malcolm Hall	Robinson	Fairfax, VA
Jerry Howard	Jones	Orlando, FL
Jarvis Jenkins	Daniel	Central, SC
Antonio Jeremiah	Davidson	Hilliard, OH
Cameron Jordan	Chandler	Chandler, AZ
Fred Jordan	William Fleming	Roanoke, VA
Linval Joseph	Santa Fe	Alachua, FL
Michael Keck	Harrisonville	Harrisonville, MO
David Kelsch	Tremper	Kenosha, WI
Ted Laurent	McEachern	Powder Springs, GA
Junius Lewis	Morgantown	Morgantown, WV
Josh Marks	Southern Columbia	Catawissa, PA
Rolando Melancon	Lutcher	Lutcher, LA
Von Miller	DeSoto	DeSoto, TX
Jacoby Monroe	Sandalwood	Jacksonville, FL
Richard Muldrew	York Catholic	York, PA
Kerry Murphy	Hoover	Hoover, AL
Kenny Neal	Bunn	Bunn, NC
Drake Nevis	John Ehret	Marrero, LA
Joey Nunez	San Benito	San Benito, TX
Po'u Palelei	Bishop Gorman	Las Vegas, NV
Rene Perry	Columbia	Lake City, FL
Jason Peters	Catholic	Baton Rouge, LA
Brian Price	Crenshaw	Los Angeles, CA
Darius Scott	North Chicago	Chicago, IL
Jabaal Sheard	Hollywood Hills	Hollywood Hills, FL
Rae Sykes	Alcoa	Alcoa, TN
Solomon Thomas	Lakota West	West Chester, OH
Stephen Thomas	North Mesquite	Mesquite, TX
Wayne Thomas	Nottingham North	Hamilton, NJ
Justin Trattou	Don Bosco Prep	Ramsey, NJ
Tony Tucker	St. John's	Washington, DC
Kaniela Tuipulotu	Kahuku	Kahuku, HI
Christian Tupou	Grant	Sacramento, CA
Ryan Van Bergen	Whitehall	Whitehall, MI
Myles Wade	Benson Tech	Portland, OR
Ian Williams	Lyman	Longwood, FL
Rufus Williams	Astronaut	Titusville, FL
Martez Wilson	Simeon	Chicago, IL
Stefen Wisniewski	Central Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA

LINEBACKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Manny Abreu	Union Hill	Union City, NJ
Jeremy Bednarz-Gray	Detroit Catholic	Redford, MI
Broderick Bine	Cretin-Derham Hall	St. Paul, MN
Austin Box	Enid	Enid, OK
Joshua Bynes	Boyd Anderson	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
Devonte Campbell	Forestville	Forestville, MD
C.C. Carpenter	West Monroe	West Monroe, LA
Nate Carter	Las Vegas	Las Vegas, NV
Chris Colasanti	Brother Rice	Birmingham, MI
Chris Cooke	Pace	Pace, FL
Justin Cueller	Central	Independence, OR
Andrew Dailey	Washington	Massillon, OH
Antwon Dixon	Terry	Terry, MS
Ben Eaton	Gilman	Baltimore, MD
Anthony Elliot	Fairfield	Fairfield, OH
Linden Fowler	Napa	Napa, CA
Zach Goebel	Mater Dei	Evansville, IN
Jay Hancock	Memorial	Madison, WI

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Maurice Harris	Homestead	Homestead, FL
Vince Harris	LaSalle	Cincinnati, OH
Justin Hickman	Hubbard	Chicago, IL
Jermale Hines	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Tucker Jackson	Bowling Green	Bowling Green, KY
Austin Jensen	Manatee	Bradenton, FL
Alex Johns	Gonzaga	Washington, DC
Tony Johnson	Milton	Milton, FL
Jamie Jones	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Pat Lazaer	Walt Whitman	Bethesda, MD
Tolbert Matthews	Norview	Norfolk, VA
Bryce McNaul	Eden Prairie	Eden Prairie, MN
Robert Mullins	Dorsey	Los Angeles, CA
Aaron Nagel	Lemont	Lemont, IL
Tyler Nielsen	Humboldt	Humboldt, IA
Keenan Robinson	East	Plano, TX
Brian Rolle	Immokalee	Immokalee, FL
Kevin Rouse	Joliet Catholic	Joliet, IL
Kenny Rowe	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Marcus Sanders	Westfield	Houston, TX
Tanner Shuck	Jenks	Jenks, OK
Brian Smith	St. Thomas Aquinas	Overland Park, KS
Kendall Smith	South Sumter	Bushnell, FL
Reid Smith	Oak Lawn	Oak Lawn, IL
Blake Sorenson	Eden Prairie	Eden Prairie, MN
Austin Stafford	Hayward	Hayward, CA
Derrick Stephens	Cypress Falls	Houston, TX
George Tabron	Central Catholic	Canton, OH
Aaron Taliaferro	Gloucester	Gloucester, VA
Will Thompson	St. Peter's Prep	Jersey City, NJ
Damian Thornton	Hibriten	Lenoir, NC
John Tyndall	Pacific Grove	Pacific Grove, CA
Kevin Watt	Glenbard West	Glen Ellyn, IL
Charles White	Blythwood	Blythwood, SC
Dan Williams	Belmont Hill	Belmont, MA
J'Courtney Williams	Christchurch	Christchurch, LA
Marshall Williams	Parkview	Lilburn, GA
Jamil Wilson	Highland	Albuquerque, NM

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Antwoine Baker	Jordan	Los Angeles, CA
Shane Becker	Becker	Becker, MN
Jordan Bernstine	Lincoln	Des Moines, IA
Eric Block	Bellevue	Bellevue, WA
Marquis Boone	Sandalwood	Jacksonville, FL
Vince Brown	Gainesville	Gainesville, FL
Ryan Broyles	Norman	Norman, OK
Artis Chambers	Snider	Fort Wayne, IN
Chris Culliver	Garner	Garner, NC
Drew Cumberland	Pace	Pace, FL
Chuck Crenshaw	Central Dauphin	Harrisburg, PA
Vontae Davis	Dunbar	Washington, DC
Mark Dell	Harrison	Farmington Hills, MI
Donnie Everge	Wayne	Huber Heights, OH
Cedric Everson	Mumford	Detroit, MI
C.J. Fleming	Highland Springs	Highland Springs, VA
Jamell Fleming	Juan Seguin	Arlington, TX
Stepfoin Francois	East St. John	Reserve, LA
Stefan Gage	Henninger	Syracuse, NY
Gary Gray	Richland Northeast	Columbia, SC
Jesse Hamilton	Racine Park	Racine, WI
Vincent Hill	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Jiwan James	Williston	Williston, FL
Ronald Johnson	Muskegon	Muskegon, MI
Chad Jones	Southern Lab	Baton Rouge, LA
Marshall Jones	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, CA
Phelon Jones	McGill-Toolen	Mobile, AL
Markeith LaRoda	St. Joseph	Hammonton, NJ
Brady Locker	Ferndale	Ferndale, WA
Jeff Maehl	Paradise	Paradise, CA
Lance Mitchell	Muir	Pasadena, CA
Davon Morgan	Varina	Richmond, VA
Diauntae Morrow	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Nate Oliver	St. Edward	Lakewood, OH
Jonathan Ott	Mountain Ridge	Phoenix, AZ
Brandon Paul	Lincoln	Tallahassee, FL
Niles Paul	North	Omaha, NE
Chad Powell	Susquehannock	Glen Rock, PA
Quinton Richardson	O'Dea	Seattle, WA
Evan Rodriguez	North Bergen	North Bergen, NJ
James Scott	Seabreeze	Daytona Beach, FL
Terrance Shaw	Valley Stream	Valley Stream, NJ
Callan Sherd	Rockford	Rockford, MI
Harrison Smith	Knoxville Catholic	Knoxville, TN
Gino Sturdivant	Glenville	Cleveland, OH
Golden Tate	Pope John Paul II	Hendersonville, TN
Earl Thomas	West Orange Stark	Orange, TX
James Thomas	La Marque	La Marque, TX
Mike Tice	Edina	Edina, MN
Marcus Thomas	Morgan Park	Chicago, IL
Courtney Viney	Edison	Fresno, CA
Cornelius Ward	Friendly	Fort Washington, MD
Ben Wells	Ozen	Beaumont, TX
Willie White	Camden County	Kingsland, GA
Doug Wiggins	North Miami Beach	North Miami Beach, FL
Adrian Williams	Westlake	Atlanta, GA
John Williams	Breaux Bridge	Breaux Bridge, LA
Michael Williams	St. Bonaventure	Ventura, CA
Ryan Williams	Rain	Mobile, AL
Major Wright	St. Thomas Aquinas	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

KICKERS

	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Alex Alejo	Gridley	Gridley, CA
Billy Bennett	Torrey Pines	San Diego, CA
Robbie Broach	Hahnville	Boutte, LA
Craig Bunney	Ambridge	Ambridge, PA
Jake Campbell	Regis	Eau Claire, WI
Joshua Cherry	McCook	McCook, NE
Sal Dimauro	Boca Raton	Boca Raton, FL
Jaime Fernandez	Lufkin	Lufkin, TX
Chris Fuchs	Charter	Pembroke Pines, FL
Dwayne Gatlin	Palmetto	Miami, FL
Blake George	South Caldwell	Hudson, NC
Chris Hinkebein	Providence	Charlotte, NC
Radi Jabouri	East St. John	Reserve, LA
Phillip Jordan	Ware County	Manor, GA
Chris Lorditch	Archbishop Wood	Warminster, PA
Alex Minneart	Edgewood	Madison, WI
Kiel Rasp	Nathan Hale	Seattle, WA
Michael Scott	Franklin	El Paso, TX
Chris Summers	Hamilton SE	Fishers, IN
Alex Tejada	Springdale	Springdale, AR
Danile Torres	Diamond Bar	Diamond Bar, CA
James Shaughnessy	Midway	Waco, TX
Stanley Shurson	Ramona	Ramona, CA
Matt Szymanski	A&M Consolidated	College Station, TX
Brooke Van Meujen	Monte Vista	Danville, CA
Brandon Walker	Findlay	Findlay, OH
Jared Witter	West	Shawnee Mission, KS
Alex Zendejas	Ironwood	Glendale, AZ

50 JUNIORS TO WATCH

★ ARKANSAS
Dennis Johnson, RB, Texarkana

★ CALIFORNIA
Vaughn Dotsy, OL, Ventura St. Bonaventure
Khaled Holmes, OL, Santa Ana Mater Dei
Jamar Jarrett, DL, San Marcos Mission Hills
Milton Knox, RB, Lake Balboa Birmingham
Dennis Shoemate, WR, Anaheim Servite
Tyron Smith, OL, Moreno Valley Rancho Verde

★ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Reginald Ellis, DL, Dunbar

★ FLORIDA
Jahleel Addae, RB, Riverview
Byron Harvey, OL, Ocala Trinity Catholic
Karnell Hatcher, DB, Delray Beach Atlantic
Aldarius Johnson, WR, Miami Northwestern
Conner Kempe, QB, North Palm Beach Benjamin
T.J. Lawrence, DB, Lakeland Kathleen
Martavious Odoms, WR, Pahokee
Neiko Pate, RB, DeLand
Eric Smith, RB, Seffner Armwood
Sean Spence, LB, Miami Northwestern

★ GEORGIA
Chris Clay, RB, Cuthbert Randolph-Clay
Debrale Smiley, RB, Thomasville Thomas County Central

★ INDIANA
Bryan Schroeder, RB/DB, Ramsey North Harrison
Nick Sliger, DL, Fishers Hamilton Southeastern

★ KANSAS
Logan Dold, RB/LB, Garden Plain

★ KENTUCKY
Brian Winklepleck, DB, Owensboro Catholic

★ LOUISIANA
DeAngelo Benton, WR, Bastrop
Randle Mackey, QB, Bastrop

★ MARYLAND
Kenny Tate, WR/DB, Hyattsville DeMatha

★ MISSISSIPPI
Darius Barksdale, DB, Batesville South Panola

★ NEBRASKA
Baker Steinkuhler, OL, Lincoln Southwest

★ NORTH CAROLINA
Anthony Council, RB, Dudley Southern Wayne
C.J. Wilson, RB/WR, Lincolnton

★ OHIO
Darius Ashley, RB, Cincinnati St. Xavier
Dailyn Campbell, QB, Kenton
Reggie Comeaux, OL, Massillon
Shawntel Rowell, DL, Warrensville Heights
Zebrie Sanders, OL, Clayton Northmont
Nathan Williams, LB, Washington Court House Miami Trace

★ PENNSYLVANIA
David Posluszny, DB, Aliquippa Hopewell
Terrell Pryor, DL, Jeannette

★ SOUTH CAROLINA
A.J. Green, WR/DB, Summerville
Robert Quinn, LB, Fort Dorchester

★ TEXAS
Riley Dodge, QB, Southlake Carroll
Victor Johnson, DB, Waco
Tré Newton, RB, Southlake Carroll
J.B. Shugarts, OL, Klein
R.J. Washington, DE, Keller Fossil Ridge

★ UTAH
Cody Raymond, WR, Sandy Jordan

★ VIRGINIA
Jeron Gouveia, DB, Stone Bridge

★ WASHINGTON
Alameda Ta'amu, OL, Seattle Rainier Beach

★ WEST VIRGINIA
Josh Jenkins, OL, Parkersburg

25 PREP TEAMS TO WATCH

By DOUG HUFF

(listed alphabetically by states)

★ HOOVER, AL (14-1 in '05)

Twelve senior starters (six on each side of the ball) return from a team that won a state-record fourth straight Class 6A title. The Bucs will be led again by QB Ross Wilson (5-11, 155), the MVP of the state finals. Other offensive veterans include RB Dennis King (5-9, 180) and four linemen—Patrick Crump (6-4, 290), Tommy Sikora (6-2, 280), Michael Hayes (6-2, 290) and center Gary Cramer (5-10, 225). The defensive regulars are touted linemen Kerry Murphy (6-5, 325) and Josh Chapman (6-2, 285), LB Michael DeJohn (6-0, 225), CB Camyren Stokes (5-9, 170) and safeties Kwesi Mitchell (5-11, 185) and Josh Linson (5-10, 165). A newcomer is offensive tackle Ryan Pugh (6-3, 275), a transfer from Spain Park High.

★ DE LA SALLE, CONCORD, CA (11-2)

Fourteen starters, including nine on offense, return for Coach Bob Ladouceur, who has a 27-year record of 307-19-3. Two defensive players earned All-State Underclassman honors from *CalHiSports.com* last season—defensive back Lonnie Wishom (6-0, 180) and junior LB Brady Amack. Other defensive veterans are LB Albert Rosette and linemen Louis Baltazar, Marco Noce and Zack Klaas. The offensive stars include linemen Stephen Valenzuela, Tyler Hess and junior Jordan Bouey; WR John Hendershott; QB Mike MacGillivray; and running backs Tilman Pugh, Tim Maupin and Dominguez Dickerson.

★ OAKS CHRISTIAN, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA (13-0)

The talent-laden Lions return 19 starters, including two preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America selections, while seeking to extend a 31-game win streak. Quarterback Jimmy Clausen (6-3, 200), a Notre Dame recruit, and running back/linebacker Marc Tyler (6-0, 215) enter their final seasons with high expectations. Clausen passed for more than 3,600 yards and 57 scores as a sophomore before tossing 30 TDs and amassing 2,778 yards last season. Tyler scored 45 TDs and rushed for 2,196 yards as a junior. Other touted seniors include CB Marshall Jones (6-1, 195), defensive lineman Duke Lemmens (6-4, 240), OL Joe Dembesky and junior defensive back Chris Potter (5-11, 175).

★ ST. BONAVENTURE, VENTURA, CA (14-0)

The Seraphs return 11 starters among 30 lettermen from last season's top-ranked team by *CalHiSports.com*. With six section titles in the last seven years, six seniors will lead the defending CIF Southern Section Division IV champions. They are wide receiver/linebacker Blaine Irby (6-3, 218), two-way backs Mike Williams (6-0, 190) and Michael Lee (5-9, 175), wide receiver/defensive backs Glenn Wakam (5-11, 188) and Alex Diaz (5-9, 175) and tight end/linebacker Angel Morales (5-11, 185). Two touted juniors are two-way lineman Vaughn Dotsy (6-5, 340) and running back/linebacker Ryan Panapa (6-0, 230). Other key underclassmen are juniors Andrew Sims (6-3, 230), a two-way lineman; tight end/defensive lineman Ryan Medina (6-2, 215); and wide receiver/defensive back Chad Kurtz (6-2, 175).

★ GLADES CENTRAL, BELLE GLADE, FL (12-1)

The Raiders appear poised to contend for a state title, led by preseason All-America WR Deonte Thompson (6-0, 186), who caught 12 TD passes and added six kick returns for scores last season. Also back are QB Bryan Mann, (2,017 yards and 23 TDs last season), RB Damien Berry (6-0, 170), WR Tarus McKinley (6-0, 190) and four massive linemen—Earnest McCoy (6-6, 300), Maurice Byrnes (6-4, 335), Jetavious Jackson (6-4, 300) and Jacoby Love (6-2, 280).

★ LAKELAND, FL (15-0)

The Dreadnaughts are loaded as they enter the season with 30 straight wins and are seeking their third consecutive Class 5A title. Eight All-State players are among 12 returning starters. Two are preseason Top 50 All-America choices—running back Chris Rainey (5-8, 160), a University of Florida recruit, and defensive lineman John Brown (6-1, 285). Twins LaShawn and James Pouncey are Florida State recruits. Other All-State picks on hand are RB Jamar Taylor (5-11, 210), WR Paul Wilson (6-1, 175) and defensive backs Ahmad Black (5-10, 165) and Steve Wilkes. Key seniors include TE/DE Jordan Hammond (6-5, 230) and LB Nick Moody. The quarterback will be Blair Castle (6-4, 180).

★ BROOKWOOD, SNELLVILLE, GA (14-1)

The Broncos are coming off a state Class 5A runner-up season with hopes of taking the next step to a title. Returning are nine starters, including five on defense. That unit is led by two-time team-leading tackler Rennie Curran (5-10, 200), a University of Georgia recruit who has 343 stops the last two years, including 198 as a junior. Receiver/DB Patrick Moran (5-10, 175) and LB/RB Joe Moore (5-11, 195) are also two-year starters. Other veterans include LB/RB David Kelley (5-11, 205), WR/DB Demetre Ledlum (5-8, 173) and two-way linemen Nick Biggee (6-1, 250) and Mitchell King (6-1, 275). Jared Reine (6-0, 180), a transfer from New Orleans, will also be a factor at wideout.

★ WARNER ROBINS, GA (9-2)

The Class 4A powerhouse Demons are making the move to Class 5A and have 35 lettermen (including 10 starters) back to make the transition smooth. Quarterback Mark Wright (6-2, 205), who missed last season with a knee injury after leading the team to a title in 2004, returns, as do several other key players. They include wingback Antoine Hamilton (5-9, 165), center Robert Luciano (6-1, 245), offensive tackle Lee Hopf (6-3, 270), linebackers Brian Buford (5-11, 195) and Roderick Rose (5-10, 190), cornerback Laron Scott (5-10, 170) and defensive ends Justin Cowart (6-4, 215) and junior Jordan Sanders (6-2, 215). Luciano and Rose are three-year starters.

★ LINCOLN-WAY EAST, FRANKFORT, IL (13-0)

The Griffins won their first Class 8A title in only their fifth season and should be favored again with five starters on each side of the ball returning. Four three-year starters include offensive lineman Adam Gettis (6-4, 250), also a top track-and-field thrower; placekicker/punter Tom Lynch (5-11, 190); wingback Andy Gerritsen (6-2, 190); and inside linebacker Jon Olofsson (6-0, 220). Other veterans are center Phil Wing (6-0, 230), OL Blake Lucas (6-2, 260), junior running back Dan Cebula (5-10, 190), defensive tackle D.J. Pirkle (6-1, 280), linebackers Brendan Mulheran (5-11, 85) and John Koszulinski (6-1, 210) and defensive backs Ryan Weber (5-10, 175) and Marvin Cosby (5-9, 150).

★ WARREN CENTRAL, INDIANAPOLIS, IN (14-1)

The Warriors will be seeking a fourth straight Class 5A title and the first under Coach Steve Tutsie. Sixteen starters are back, including two preseason Top 50 All-America choices in DB Jeremy Finch (6-3, 200) and RB Darren Evans (6-0, 208). Finch, a University of Michigan recruit, had 10 interceptions in 2005 and also plays wide receiver. Evans, the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year in 2004, ran for 39 TDs and his second straight 2,000-yard rushing season as a junior. Other top recruits include WR Adrien Robinson (6-5, 220) and DT Jeff Boyd (6-4, 265), while Matt Upshaw takes over at QB. Offensive linemen Andrew McDonald (6-7, 280), Kyle Rawn (6-1, 240), Bryce Stone (6-0, 255) and Stephen Brewer (6-2, 250) return. Sophomore Ed Hazelett, a basketball standout, is a 6-8 tight end.

★ JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN, RIVER RIDGE, LA (10-1)

The Patriots will be seeking a fifth state title in the last six years after repeating as Class 2A champs last season. Coach J.T. Curtis has guided 20 state-title teams since 1975 and has a 36-year record of 427-46-6. This year's team returns nine offensive and seven defensive starters, including preseason Top 50 All-American Joe McKnight, a two-way back and kick returner. Other offensive veterans include TE Kevin Wild, center Bryan Munch and linemen Ruston Rodrigue and Andrew Nierman. Other players to watch are RB David Seeman, WR Vincent Allen and WR/DB P.J. Smith, along with touted sophomore RB Kenny Cain and QB Kyle Collura. Noseguard Jonathan English and DE Michael Collins anchor the defensive line, while Jacob Dufrene (6-2, 225) heads a linebacking corps that includes Mike Walker, Lincston Jones and Preston Numa (6-4, 250), who may move back to tackle. The secondary includes four-year regular Colby Arceneaux and juniors Robby Green and Alex Lauricella.

★ SOUTH PANOLA, BATESVILLE, MS (15-0)

The Tigers are fortified to extend their winning streak of 45 games and capture a fourth straight Class 5A title. Coach Ricky Woods has 10 returning starters—five on each side of the ball—as a nucleus. Six are three-year starters, including linebacker Chris Strong (6-3, 250), a *Street & Smith's* preseason All-American and one of three Ole Miss recruits. Others are third-year QB Leroy Diggs (5-11, 175) and tailback

Jeramie Griffin (6-1, 238). Two-way lineman Hunter Bailey (6-2, 310) is a Mississippi State recruit. Two juniors will be third-year starters—offensive lineman Cameron Wagner (5-10, 310) and two-way back Darius Barksdale (5-11, 180).

★ ROCK BRIDGE, COLUMBIA, MO (7-3)

The Bruins are loaded with experience that took them to a state Class 6 quarterfinal appearance last season. Rock Bridge returns nine starters on each side of the ball and faces a challenging schedule that includes games in Arkansas and Nevada. Touted QB Logan Gray (6-2, 175) runs the offense, while All-State offensive tackle Jeremy Guier (6-1, 265) anchors the line. Other veterans include LB/TB Andrew Adams (6-0, 225), two-way back Scott Concannon (5-10, 185), linebacker Johnny Wacker (6-1, 225), WR/DB Brandon Gerau (6-0, 160), two-way guard Jason Reddy (6-0, 305), center/DE Clay Minchew (6-2, 255) and junior two-way lineman Dan Schufeldt (6-4, 285).

★ ST.PETER'S PREP, JERSEY CITY, NJ (12-0)

New Jersey's top-ranked team last season returns 17 starters, including nine on offense. The four two-way starters are junior QB/free safety Will Hill (6-1, 195), All-State LB/RB Will Thompson (6-1, 230), TE/DE Ravi Pradahang (6-3, 235), and LB/RB Shariff Harris (6-1, 195). Other offensive veterans include wide receivers Mike Lang (6-1, 175) and Nick Lalumia (6-2, 170), junior FB Anthony Giannobile (5-10, 200), center Emerson Hurarnga (6-0, 260) and guards Rich Brennan (6-0, 260) and Harold Milne (5-10, 245). On the defensive side are linebackers Joe Valenti (6-2, 210) and Steve Pankiewicz (5-11, 250), end Anthony Andreadis (6-1, 280) and sophomore noseguard Darryl Green (6-1, 290).

★ INDEPENDENCE, CHARLOTTE, NC (15-0)

The Patriots enter the season with a nationwide-best 92 straight wins and will seek a seventh straight Class 4A title. Prolific quarterback Darryl McFadden (6-2, 210) leads seven returning offensive starters after completing 230 of 464 passes for 3,877 yards and 33 TDs last season. Other offensive veterans include wide receiver Jason Barnes (6-4, 190), linemen Boo Simmons (6-0, 280) and junior Eric Thompson (6-2, 265) and junior tight ends Mario Carter (6-4, 235) and Jordan Woods (6-3, 215). Three defensive starters are back—linebackers Darryl Smith (6-0, 205) and Justin McFadden (5-10, 207), who's a converted noseguard, and lineman Dewitt Dixon (6-0, 230).

★ ST. XAVIER, CINCINNATI, OH (15-0)

The Bombers return 11 starters from the school's first Division I state-title team. Anchoring the offense is junior tailback Darius Ashley (5-9, 185), who rushed for 1,633 yards and 28 TDs last year. The other five offensive starters returning are guards Wes Schroder (6-4, 285) and Max Bauman (6-2, 265), tackle Howard Patton (6-2, 285), TE Mike Knueven (6-4, 220) and junior WR Dan Milligan (5-8, 160), a touted placekicker/punter/kick returner who could be tested at quarterback. Two other juniors figure in the Bombers' plans—running backs Luca Romeo and Stephen Ball. The defense is led by safety Fred Craig (6-2, 205); CB John Saellinger (6-0, 175); inside linebackers Nick Schneider (6-3, 230) and Mike Hanlon (5-10, 225); and junior DE Joe Langen (6-2, 220), a part-time starter last year.

★ ST. EDWARD, LAKEWOOD, OH (12-1)

The Eagles have 13 starters back from last season's state Division 1 quarterfinal team. The leaders are two-way back Nate Oliver (6-0, 200), an Ohio State recruit, and RB Frank Edmonds, who rushed for 2,800 yards last season. Other offensive veterans are WR Kyle Hubbard (6-4, 225), tackle Tom Lavisky (6-2, 280) and two-way lineman Ben Kuhar (6-3, 250). Other defensive regulars returning are middle guard Debo Elias (5-10, 235), CB Joe Davis (5-10, 175), inside linebackers Jeff Lucas (6-3, 215) and Mike Stounnersen (6-2, 220) and outside linebackers Diaunte Morrow (6-0, 190) and Curt Skoczen (6-0, 210).

★ TULSA UNION, TULSA, OK (13-1)

The Redskins have won the last two state Class 6A titles, but will play for a new head coach who is also familiar with championships. Kevin Wright, who guided Warren Central to the last three Indiana Class 5A crowns, takes the reins. Union returns three starters on each side of the ball as it looks to extend a 57-game home win streak. Anchoring the offensive line is touted Matt Romine (6-7, 275). The QB is junior Brandon Rogers. Top receivers are TE Jacobs Tigges (6-3, 245) and wideouts Casey Ketchum (6-3, 190), Blake Ziegenhorn (6-3, 185) and Don Hawkins (6-4, 190). Fullback Harold Cox is the top runner. The defense is led by senior backs Eric Williams (6-0, 170) and Houston Stamp (6-1, 180) and junior Jonathan Ameen (5-10, 170). A touted junior linebacker is Dylan Troutman (6-0, 210).

★ HARRISBURG, PA (7-3)

With 18 starters returning, including nine on each side of the ball, Coach George Chaump is hoping for a healthy campaign. Last season's fortunes stalled when quarterback Nate Brown (6-4, 220) was sidelined with an injury. Besides Brown, other key offensive players should be wide receivers Carlos Smith (5-11, 185) and Lavar Burhannan (6-1, 195), plus third-year starting lineman Derrick Brown (6-4, 280). The defense is anchored by linebackers Xavier Hunter (6-0, 220) and safety Zach Runkle (6-2, 205), a transfer from Oregon who doubles as a wideout.

★ BYRNES, DUNCAN, SC (15-0)

The Rebels return nine starters from a team that won a fourth consecutive state 4A Division II title and outscored opponents 777-154. The leader of the pack is quarterback and Clemson recruit Will Korn (6-2, 200), who passed for a state-record 4,164 yards and 53 TDs last season. Other veterans include linebacker Stanley Hunter, the team's top tackler last season, plus offensive lineman Chad Diehl, defensive end Jamison Watson, defensive backs T.J. Jones and Dennis Rector, linebacker Albert Lemus, placekicker Cam Miller and punter Brandon Branch. Promising newcomers are running back Deonte Gist, wide receiver Randall Hawkins and junior Colby Conner.

★ SUMMERVILLE, SC (12-3)

The nation's winningest prep coach, John McKissick, will turn 80 this year and enters his 53rd season with 531 wins and 10 state titles. With 13 starters back from a state Class 4A-Big 16 runner-up team, this year's Summerville squad could add to McKissick's resume. A key returnee is two-time All-State wideout A.J. Green, the reigning EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year (75 passes, 1,416 yards last season). Other touted juniors include QB Reid McCollum, offensive lineman Richard Spain and DB Davon Ellington. Two massive offensive linemen top the seniors—David Richmond (6-4, 255) and Andrew Tucker (6-7, 275).

★ RAVENWOOD, BRENTWOOD, TN (14-1)

The Raptors won the state Class 5A title and return 11 starters from that team. The new quarterback will be junior Michael Becker (6-1, 180), last year's regular free safety. Offensive veterans back include three huge offensive linemen in tackles Joe Thompson (6-6, 285) and Garrett Snoeyenbos (6-5, 270), plus center Trevor Witherspoon (6-3, 260), running back Corey Laidlaw (5-11, 170) and wide receivers Michael Ayers (6-0, 170) and Jonathon Emkes (6-1, 185). Defensive stalwarts returning include end Isiah Williams (6-2, 190), linebackers Adam Presley (6-0, 175) and Paul Cleckner (6-1, 215) and back Scott Ford (5-7, 160).

★ CARROLL, SOUTHLAKE, TX (16-0)

The Dragons have won 63 of their last 64 games and three of the last four state Class 5A-II titles, but face a rebuilding situation this season. Carroll returns only two offensive starters in juniors Tré Newton (6-2, 190), son of ex-Dallas Cowboy Nate Newton, and Riley Dodge (6-0, 180), son of Coach Todd Dodge. Newton rushed for 1,375 yards and 14 TDs last season. Dodge may be moved to QB after previously playing receiver and running back. He passed for 750 yards, rushed for 725 and added 25 catches for 350 yards as a sophomore. Five defensive starters return. They are middle linebacker Justin Padron (6-0, 215), end Kyle Russo (6-3, 245), safety Greg Lehane (5-10, 180) and cornerbacks Arius Ford (5-10, 175) and Anthony Ford (5-10, 175).

★ LUFKIN, TX (14-1)

Lufkin's only losses the last two years were to national champion Southlake. The Panthers return 10 three-year regulars among 14 starters. Quarterback Jeremy Claybon will throw to wide receivers Dez Bryant and Ralph Thomas. Defensive veterans include CB DanQuan Landry (5-9, 165), LB Joe Jackson (6-0, 180), DE A.J. Penson (6-1, 230) and lineman Randall Murphy (6-0, 245). All-State kicker/punter Jamie Fernandez also returns.

★ MORGANTOWN, WV (14-0)

The Mohigans are well-armed to seek a third straight Class 3A title. Eight offensive and six defensive starters are among 38 lettermen returning. Three-year starting QB Charlie Russell (6-4, 225) is a University of West Virginia recruit. He has 3,500 passing yards and 40 TDs in his career. Two other All-State picks are back in TE/DE Junius Lewis (6-2, 265) and two-way back Derek Long (6-1, 170). Interior linemen include Bryan Petitto (6-2, 275) and Dustin Laudermilch (6-4, 285). Veteran receivers are J.T. Lewis (6-4, 185) and Andrew Saab (6-2, 170). Other defensive veterans are LB Andrew Garcia (6-0, 200) and backs Mike Digman (6-0, 175) and Josh Davis (5-9, 165).

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY *(MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Rudy Carpenter, Arizona State	FR	9	228	156	68.42	2	.88	2273	9.97	17	7.46	175.0
Brian Brohm, Louisville	SO	10	301	207	68.77	5	1.66	2883	9.58	19	6.31	166.7
Vince Young, Texas	JR	13	325	212	65.23	10	3.08	3036	9.34	26	8.00	163.9
Troy Smith, Ohio State	SR	11	237	149	62.87	4	1.69	2282	9.63	16	6.75	162.7
Drew Olson, UCLA	SR	12	378	242	64.02	6	1.59	3198	8.46	34	8.99	161.6
Phil Horvath, Northern Illinois	JR	9	238	168	70.59	8	3.36	2001	8.41	18	7.56	159.4
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	JR	12	450	292	64.89	7	1.56	3919	8.71	32	7.11	158.4
Matt Leinart, USC	SR	13	431	283	65.66	8	1.86	3815	8.85	28	6.50	157.7
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	SO	12	515	350	67.96	13	2.52	4301	8.35	35	6.80	155.5
Drew Stanton, Michigan State	JR	11	354	236	66.67	12	3.39	3077	8.69	22	6.21	153.4
Brian Johnson, Utah	SO	10	330	210	63.64	7	2.12	2892	8.76	18	5.45	151.0
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	JR	9	321	195	60.75	7	2.18	2590	8.07	26	8.10	150.9
John Stocco, Wisconsin	JR	13	328	197	60.06	9	2.74	2920	8.90	21	6.40	150.5
Justin Holland, Colorado State	SR	12	369	235	63.69	15	4.07	3185	8.63	23	6.23	148.6
Cody Hodges, Texas Tech	SR	12	531	353	66.48	12	2.26	4238	7.98	31	5.84	148.3
D.J. Shockley, Georgia	SR	12	310	173	55.81	5	1.61	2588	8.35	24	7.74	148.3
Ryan Hart, Rutgers	SR	10	255	155	60.78	8	3.14	2135	8.37	18	7.06	148.1
Paul Pinegar, Fresno State	SR	13	416	265	63.70	15	3.61	3335	8.02	30	7.21	147.6
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo	SR	11	332	207	62.35	12	3.61	2469	7.44	29	8.73	146.4
Drew Tate, Iowa	JR	12	352	219	62.22	7	1.99	2828	8.03	22	6.25	146.4
Bryan Cupito, Minnesota	JR	11	297	176	59.26	9	3.03	2530	8.52	19	6.40	145.9
Darrell Hackney, UAB	SR	11	386	242	62.69	12	3.11	3180	8.24	22	5.70	144.5
Marcus Vick, Virginia Tech	JR	13	289	177	61.25	10	3.46	2393	8.28	17	5.88	143.3
Paul Smith, Tulsa	SO	13	364	227	62.36	6	1.65	2835	7.79	20	5.49	142.6
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	JR	12	434	258	59.45	19	4.38	3503	8.07	29	6.68	140.5
Alex Brink, Washington State	SO	11	358	205	57.26	13	3.63	2891	8.08	24	6.70	140.0

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	SO	12	99	371	217	154	515	4301	614	4455	7.26	371.3
Cody Hodges, Texas Tech	SR	12	109	496	305	191	531	4238	640	4429	6.92	369.1
Brett Basanez, Northwestern	SR	12	113	550	127	423	497	3622	610	4045	6.63	337.1
Brian Johnson, Utah	SO	10	152	690	212	478	330	2892	482	3370	6.99	337.0
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	JR	12	70	245	155	90	450	3919	520	4009	7.71	334.1
Vince Young, Texas	JR	13	155	1186	136	1050	325	3036	480	4086	8.51	314.3
John Beck, Brigham Young	JR	12	73	242	181	61	513	3709	586	3770	6.43	314.2
Drew Stanton, Michigan State	JR	11	121	520	182	338	354	3077	475	3415	7.19	310.5
Brad Smith, Missouri	SR	12	229	1457	156	1301	399	2304	628	3605	5.74	300.4
Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt	SR	11	106	443	228	215	462	3073	568	3288	5.79	298.9
Darrell Hackney, UAB	SR	11	51	187	82	105	386	3180	437	3285	7.52	298.6
Matt Leinart, USC	SR	13	51	157	121	36	431	3815	482	3851	7.99	296.2
Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green	JR	9	40	154	92	62	321	2590	361	2652	7.35	294.7
Kent Smith, Central Michigan	SR	11	157	684	241	443	420	2799	577	3242	5.62	294.7
Kevin Kolb, Houston	JR	12	104	421	221	200	420	3258	524	3458	6.60	288.2
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	JR	12	56	152	202	-50	434	3503	490	3453	7.05	287.8
Brian Brohm, Louisville	SO	10	41	96	132	-36	301	2883	342	2847	8.32	284.7
Josh Betts, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	44	104	165	-61	434	3178	478	3117	6.52	283.4
Alex Brink, Washington State	SO	11	56	244	138	106	358	2891	414	2997	7.24	272.5
James Pinkney, East Carolina	JR	11	95	378	185	193	366	2773	461	2966	6.43	269.6
Jeff Rowe, Nevada	SR	12	119	470	226	244	389	2925	508	3169	6.24	264.1
Luke Getsy, Akron	JR	13	56	130	159	-29	525	3455	581	3426	5.90	263.5
Michael Robinson, Penn State	SR	12	163	932	126	806	311	2350	474	3156	6.66	263.0
Troy Smith, Ohio State	SR	11	136	722	111	611	237	2282	373	2893	7.76	263.0
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M	SR	10	96	780	116	664	265	1963	361	2627	7.28	262.7
Drew Olson, UCLA	SR	12	50	100	148	-48	378	3198	428	3150	7.36	262.5

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/GM
Reggie Bush, USC	JR	13	1740	478	179	493	283	10.21	2890	222.31
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	9	1580	222	0	0	262	6.88	1802	200.22
Jerome Harrison, Washington St.	SR	11	1900	206	0	7	333	6.35	2113	192.09
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	1964	78	0	33	324	6.40	2075	188.64
Rafael Little, Kentucky	SO	11	1045	449	355	133	267	7.42	1982	180.18
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	1636	571	0	0	401	5.50	2207	169.77
Domenik Hixon, Akron	SR	13	24	1210	200	705	132	16.20	2139	164.54
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	13	47	1095	380	616	114	18.75	2138	164.46
Marshawn Lynch, California	SO	10	1246	125	0	271	224	7.33	1642	164.20
Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	11	94	1116	0	555	104	16.97	1765	160.45
Laurence Maroney, Minnesota	JR	11	1464	170	0	96	302	5.73	1730	157.27
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	1474	396	0	0	294	6.36	1870	155.83
Maurice Drew, UCLA	JR	12	914	453	427	69	237	7.86	1863	155.25
DonTrell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	1298	371	0	0	306	5.45	1669	151.73
Chris Barclay, Wake Forest	SR	10	1127	159	0	222	256	5.89	1508	150.80
Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State	SO	11	1321	316	0	0	336	4.87	1637	148.82
Scott Wesley, Army	SR	11	528	46	218	833	184	8.83	1625	147.73
Albert Young, Iowa	SO	12	1334	244	0	182	285	6.18	1760	146.67
Tony Pennyman, Utah State	JR	10	44	741	0	675	95	15.37	1460	146.00
Dorien Bryant, Purdue	SO	11	101	960	0	500	122	12.80	1561	141.91
Andre Hall, South Florida	SR	12	1374	321	0	0	296	5.73	1695	141.25
Mike Hass, Oregon State	SR	11	18	1532	0	0	92	16.85	1550	140.91
Michael Bush, Louisville	JR	10	1143	253	0	0	226	6.18	1396	139.60
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State	SO	12	83	803	250	532	106	15.74	1668	139.00
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	11	108	1119	301	0	114	13.40	1528	138.91
Kevin Robinson, Utah State	SO	11	91	661	270	498	106	14.34	1520	138.18

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Greg Jennings, Western Michigan	SR	11	98	1259	14	8.91
Mike Hass, Oregon State	SR	11	90	1532	6	8.18
Jeffrey Webb, San Diego State	SR	12	92	1109	10	7.67
Aundrae Allison, East Carolina	SR	11	83	1024	7	7.55
Davone Bess, Hawaii	FR	12	89	1124	14	7.42
Martin Nance, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	81	1107	14	7.36
Chad Jackson, Florida	JR	12	88	900	9	7.33
Dorien Bryant, Purdue	SO	11	80	960	4	7.27
Earl Bennett, Vanderbilt	FR	11	79	876	9	7.18
David Anderson, Colorado State	SR	12	86	1221	8	7.17
Ryan Grice-Mullen, Hawaii	FR	12	85	1228	12	7.08
Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	11	77	1116	12	7.00
Dwayne Jarrett, USC	SO	13	91	1274	16	7.00
Jason Avant, Michigan	SR	12	82	1007	8	6.83
Eric Deslauriers, Eastern Michigan	JR	11	75	874	8	6.82
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	11	75	1119	8	6.82
Charles Sharon, Bowling Green	SR	11	74	1028	6	6.73

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Aaron Gipson, Oregon	SR	12	7	117	1	.58
Dion Byrum, Ohio	SR	11	6	153	2	.55
Jelani Jordan, Bowling Green	SR	11	6	66	0	.55
Anthony Smith, Syracuse	SR	11	6	73	0	.55
Marcus Hamilton, Virginia	JR	12	6	28	0	.50
Chaz Williams, La.-Monroe	SO	10	5	138	1	.50
Alan Zemaitis, Penn State	SR	12	6	35	0	.50
Nick Graham, Tulsa	JR	13	6	66	0	.46
Gabriel Fulbright, New Mexico	SR	11	5	77	0	.45
C.J. Wilson, Baylor	JR	11	5	54	0	.45

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Michael Bush, Louisville	JR	10	24	0	0	144	14.40
LenDale White, USC	JR	13	26	0	0	156	12.00
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	FR	10	19	0	0	114	11.40
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	9	17	0	0	102	11.33
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	24	0	0	144	11.08
Taurean Henderson, Texas Tech	SR	12	22	0	0	132	11.00
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	19	0	0	114	10.36
Maurice Drew, UCLA	JR	12	20	0	0	120	10.00
Gary Russell, Minnesota	SO	12	19	0	0	116	9.67
DonTrell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	17	0	0	104	9.45
Jerome Harrison, Washington State	SR	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
Paul Martinez, Oregon	JR	9	0	26	19	83	9.22
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	SO	11	0	32	23	101	9.18
Josh Huston, Ohio State	SR	12	0	44	22	110	9.17
Todd Soderquist, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	0	43	19	100	9.09
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Mario Danelo, USC	SO	13	0	83	11	116	8.92
Darren McCaleb, Southern Miss	JR	12	0	38	23	107	8.92
Jad Dean, Clemson	JR	12	0	34	24	106	8.83
Reggie Bush, USC	JR	13	19	0	0	114	8.77
Brandon Coutu, Georgia	SO	13	0	45	23	114	8.77
Arthur Carmody, Louisville	SO	12	0	63	14	105	8.75

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	SR	11	310	1964	6.34	18	178.55
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	JR	9	242	1580	6.53	16	175.56
Jerome Harrison, Washington State	SR	11	308	1900	6.17	16	172.73
Reggie Bush, USC	JR	13	200	1740	8.70	16	133.85
Laurence Maroney, Minnesota	JR	11	281	1464	5.21	10	133.09
Brian Calhoun, Wisconsin	JR	13	348	1636	4.70	22	125.85
Marshawn Lynch, California	SO	10	196	1246	6.36	10	124.60
Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	FR	12	250	1474	5.90	16	122.83
Yvenson Bernard, Oregon State	SO	11	299	1321	4.42	13	120.09
DonTrell Moore, New Mexico	SR	11	275	1298	4.72	14	118.00
B.J. Mitchell, Nevada	SR	12	261	1399	5.36	12	116.58
Andre Hall, South Florida	SR	12	270	1374	5.09	13	114.50
Michael Bush, Louisville	JR	10	205	1143	5.58	23	114.30
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	FR	10	205	1128	5.50	17	112.80
Chris Barclay, Wake Forest	SR	10	218	1127	5.17	10	112.70
Trovon Riley, Western Michigan	SR	9	220	1004	4.56	6	111.56
Albert Young, Iowa	SO	12	249	1334	5.36	8	111.17
Antonio Pittman, Ohio State	SO	12	243	1331	5.48	7	110.92
Brad Smith, Missouri	SR	12	229	1301	5.68	16	108.42
Trinity Dawson, Toledo	SR	12	232	1294	5.58	5	107.83
Kenny Irons, Auburn	JR	12	256	1293	5.05	13	107.75
Kyle Bell, Colorado State	SO	12	276	1288	4.67	10	107.33

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Maurice Drew, UCLA	JR	15	427	3	28.47
Quinton Jones, Boise State	JR	22	459	3	20.86
Terrence Nunn, Nebraska	SO	16	293	0	18.31
Willie Reid, Florida State	SR	31	541	3	17.45
Rafael Little, Kentucky	SO	21	355	0	16.90
Joe Burnett, UCF	FR	28	463	2	16.54
Terry Richardson, Arizona State	JR	22	337	2	15.32
Cory Rodgers, TCU	JR	19	290	0	15.26
Tim Mixon, California	JR	24	357	1	14.88
Aaron Ross, Texas	JR	34	500	2	14.71
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	26	380	2	14.62
Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.)	JR	22	312	1	14.18
Tom Zbikowski, Notre Dame	JR	27	379	2	14.04
Thomas Flowers, Georgia	SO	32	438	1	13.69
Skyler Green, LSU	SR	27	359	1	13.30
Leodis McKelvin, Troy	SO	33	417	1	12.64
Adam Jennings, Fresno State	SR	22	272	0	12.36
Steve Breaston, Michigan	SR	29	356	0	12.28
Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio)	JR	26	301	1	11.58
Darrelle Revis, Pittsburgh	SO	28	324	1	11.57

PUNTING (MINIMUM 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest	SR	11	67	3165	47.24
Sam Koch, Nebraska	SR	12	71	3302	46.51
Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor	JR	11	62	2863	46.18
Jim Kaylor, Colorado State	SO	12	53	2400	45.28
John Torp, Colorado	SR	13	80	3613	45.16
Kody Bliss, Auburn	JR	12	44	1975	44.89
Luke Johnson, Southern Miss	SR	12	53	2378	44.87
Kenneth DeBauche, Wisconsin	SO	13	57	2555	44.82
Michael Hughes, San Diego State	SO	12	67	3003	44.82
Joel Stelly, La.-Monroe	SR	11	59	2634	44.64
Michael Gibson, Memphis	JR	12	59	2632	44.61
Chris Miller, Ball State	FR	11	68	2977	43.78
Adam Podlesh, Maryland	JR	11	44	1918	43.59
Justin Brantly, Texas A&M	FR	11	46	1989	43.24
Nic Schmitt, Virginia Tech	JR	13	52	2244	43.15
Sam Paulescu, Oregon State	SR	11	56	2406	42.96
Kyle Tucker, Kansas	SO	12	66	2832	42.91
Gordon Ely-Kelso, Georgia	JR	13	57	2443	42.86

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Paul Martinez, Oregon	JR	9	24	19	.792	2.11
Alexis Serna, Oregon State	SO	11	28	23	.821	2.09
Jad Dean, Clemson	JR	12	31	24	.774	2.00
Darren McCaleb, Southern Miss	JR	12	28	23	.821	1.92
Josh Huston, Ohio State	SR	12	28	22	.786	1.83
Stephen Gostkowski, Memphis	SR	12	25	22	.880	1.83
Brandon Coutu, Georgia	SO	13	29	23	.793	1.77
Connor Hughes, Virginia	SR	12	24	21	.875	1.75
Todd Soderquist, Miami (Ohio)	SR	11	27	19	.704	1.73
Sam Swank, Wake Forest	FR	11	24	19	.792	1.73
Mason Crosby, Colorado	JR	13	29	22	.759	1.69
Jeremy Ito, Rutgers	SO	12	27	20	.741	1.67
Danny Horwedel, Louisiana Tech	SO	11	26	18	.692	1.64
Chris McMurtray, SMU	SR	11	22	18	.818	1.64
Andrew Wellock, Eastern Michigan	JR	11	25	18	.720	1.64
Jordan Congdon, Nebraska	FR	12	23	19	.826	1.58
Garrett Rivas, Michigan	JR	12	26	19	.731	1.58
Josh Cummings, Pittsburgh	SR	9	19	14	.737	1.56

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Jonathan Stewart, Oregon	FR	12	404	2	33.67
Felix Jones, Arkansas	FR	17	543	1	31.94
Cory Rodgers, TCU	JR	17	515	2	30.29
Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State	SO	18	532	1	29.56
Tony Pennyman, Utah State	JR	23	675	2	29.35
Darrell Blackman, N.C. State	SO	20	582	0	29.10
Adam Jennings, Fresno State	SR	20	580	0	29.00
Steve Breaston, Michigan	SR	23	646	1	28.09
Brandon Williams, Wisconsin	SR	22	616	0	28.00
Lee Marks, Boise State	SR	17	474	1	27.88
Jovon Bouknight, Wyoming	SR	20	555	0	27.75
Patrick Jackson, Louisiana Tech	FR	17	471	0	27.71
Jessie Henderson, SMU	FR	24	663	1	27.63
Shaun Rochon, Baylor	SR	20	548	1	27.40
T.J. Rushing, Stanford	SR	21	575	2	27.38
Terry Richardson, Arizona State	JR	23	629	0	27.35
Trestin George, San Jose State	SR	16	436	1	27.25
Scott Mayle, Ohio	JR	21	572	1	27.24

TEAM LEADERS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Navy	12	671	3824	5.70	45	318.67
Texas	13	605	3574	5.91	55	274.92
Minnesota	12	610	3277	5.37	34	273.08
West Virginia	12	625	3269	5.23	34	272.42
Memphis	12	597	3215	5.39	28	267.92
USC	13	525	3380	6.44	51	260.00
La.-Lafayette	11	531	2797	5.27	34	254.27
Air Force	11	588	2712	4.61	28	246.55
California	12	483	2823	5.84	27	235.25
Texas A&M	11	452	2584	5.72	24	234.91
Rice	11	600	2576	4.29	22	234.18
Arkansas	11	481	2386	4.96	19	216.91
Toledo	12	490	2602	5.31	20	216.83
Penn State	12	503	2553	5.08	29	212.75
Washington St.	11	440	2332	5.30	20	212.00
Northern Illinois	12	478	2480	5.19	28	206.67
Missouri	12	512	2463	4.81	26	205.25
South Florida	12	579	2436	4.21	23	203.00

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Ohio State	12	375	881	2.35	12	73.4
Tennessee	11	356	907	2.55	8	82.5
Kansas	12	414	999	2.41	8	83.3
Oklahoma	12	392	1087	2.77	11	90.6
Boston College	12	420	1090	2.60	6	90.8
LSU	13	402	1190	2.96	8	91.5
Penn State	12	442	1116	2.52	12	93.0
Virginia Tech	13	402	1214	3.02	6	93.4
Alabama	12	361	1132	3.14	5	94.3
Florida	12	373	1139	3.05	14	94.9
Colorado	13	460	1303	2.83	18	100.2
Iowa State	12	414	1232	2.98	10	102.7
Georgia Tech	12	409	1247	3.05	9	103.9
N.C. State	12	461	1286	2.79	11	107.2
Boise State	13	421	1403	3.33	9	107.9
TCU	12	456	1295	2.84	12	107.9
Oregon State	11	385	1188	3.09	13	108.0
Florida State	13	492	1409	2.86	17	108.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
USC	13	1006	7537	7.49	87	579.77
Arizona State	12	940	6229	6.63	59	519.08
Texas	13	941	6657	7.07	88	512.08
Northwestern	12	974	6004	6.16	51	500.33
Michigan State	11	834	5470	6.56	50	497.27
Texas Tech	12	896	5950	6.64	62	495.83
Minnesota	12	933	5937	6.36	56	494.75
Washington State	11	821	5382	6.56	47	489.27
Louisville	12	848	5785	6.82	69	482.08
Notre Dame	12	945	5728	6.06	58	477.33
Hawaii	12	857	5714	6.67	48	476.17
Utah	12	909	5676	6.24	45	473.00
Brigham Young	12	934	5549	5.94	51	462.42
Nevada	12	942	5392	5.72	54	449.33
Toledo	12	868	5365	6.18	56	447.08
Northern Illinois	12	815	5329	6.54	52	444.08
Texas A&M	11	773	4865	6.29	44	442.27
Oregon	12	909	5266	5.79	49	438.83

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Virginia Tech	13	789	3219	4.08	19	247.62
Alabama	12	713	3061	4.29	15	255.08
LSU	13	833	3469	4.16	21	266.85
Miami (Fla.)	12	828	3241	3.91	19	270.08
Ohio State	12	780	3376	4.33	21	281.33
Connecticut	11	732	3269	4.47	28	297.18
Tennessee	11	720	3280	4.56	21	298.18
N.C. State	12	841	3584	4.26	25	298.67
Florida	12	748	3598	4.81	30	299.83
Texas	13	897	3938	4.39	25	302.92
Kansas	12	834	3639	4.36	33	303.25
Penn State	12	877	3656	4.17	24	304.67
Oklahoma	12	830	3680	4.43	34	306.67
Florida State	13	896	4020	4.49	34	309.23
West Virginia	12	822	3729	4.54	26	310.75
Boston College	12	847	3740	4.42	21	311.67
South Florida	12	753	3743	4.97	28	311.92
Georgia	13	855	4075	4.77	27	313.46

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
TCU	14	26	40	8	11	19	1.75
USC	16	22	38	7	10	17	1.62
Florida	15	16	31	6	7	13	1.50
Tulsa	14	22	36	10	8	18	1.38
Louisiana Tech	15	16	31	8	10	18	1.18
Miami (Ohio)	15	20	35	8	14	22	1.18
Iowa State	13	22	35	11	10	21	1.17
Southern Miss	19	15	34	7	13	20	1.17
West Virginia	14	17	31	10	7	17	1.17
Oregon	9	23	32	9	10	19	1.08
Wisconsin	11	16	27	5	9	14	1.00
UCF	13	19	32	11	9	20	.92
Eastern Michigan	9	11	20	4	6	10	.91
Georgia	13	16	29	11	7	18	.85
Notre Dame	11	13	24	6	8	14	.83
Clemson	10	14	24	5	10	15	.75
Northwestern	10	20	30	12	9	21	.75
Texas Tech	16	12	28	7	12	19	.75

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Texas Tech	12	588	391	12	66.50	4666	11.93	34	388.8
Hawaii	12	578	379	15	65.57	4611	12.17	37	384.3
Arizona State	12	493	312	11	63.29	4481	14.36	38	373.4
Notre Dame	12	454	294	8	64.76	3963	13.48	32	330.3
USC	13	481	312	10	64.86	4157	13.32	32	319.8
Brigham Young	12	516	332	13	64.34	3721	11.21	27	310.1
Northwestern	12	512	320	9	62.50	3681	11.50	22	306.8
Oregon	12	482	303	10	62.86	3654	12.06	28	304.5
UTEP	12	458	268	20	58.52	3607	13.46	29	300.6
Oregon State	11	459	267	23	58.17	3261	12.21	13	296.5
Michigan State	11	381	252	13	66.14	3250	12.90	24	295.5
Utah	12	415	258	10	62.17	3534	13.70	26	294.5
Louisville	12	376	246	10	65.43	3523	14.32	24	293.6
UAB	11	389	245	12	62.98	3213	13.11	23	292.1
Miami (Ohio)	11	445	254	14	57.08	3208	12.63	27	291.6
Colorado State	12	402	248	15	61.69	3436	13.85	25	286.3
Bowling Green	11	411	249	11	60.58	3123	12.54	29	283.9
Florida St.	13	526	303	19	57.60	3674	12.13	21	282.6

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Miami (Fla.)	12	354	165	46.61	14	3.95	1826	5.16	8	2.26	89.48
Virginia Tech	13	387	192	49.61	19	4.91	2005	5.18	11	2.84	92.68
LSU	13	431	204	47.33	10	2.32	2279	5.29	12	2.78	96.26
Texas	13	436	223	51.15	11	2.52	2236	5.13	10	2.29	96.70
Alabama	12	352	175	49.72	11	3.13	1929	5.48	9	2.56	97.92
Pittsburgh	11	295	147	49.83	14	4.75	1681	5.70	10	3.39	99.36
Connecticut	11	284	132	46.48	14	4.93	1743	6.14	10	3.52	99.81
N.C. State	12	380	185	48.68	13	3.42	2298	6.05	10	2.63	101.34
TCU	12	425	222	52.24	26	6.12	2654	6.24	14	3.29	103.29
Nebraska	12	415	212	51.08	13	3.13	2495	6.01	13	3.13	105.67
Tulsa	13	358	193	53.91	22	6.15	2383	6.66	9	2.51	105.82
Georgia	13	369	211	57.18	16	4.34	2205	5.98	8	2.17	105.88
Baylor	11	390	200	51.28	16	4.10	2379	6.10	14	3.59	106.18
Penn State	12	435	246	56.55	16	3.68	2540	5.84	11	2.53	106.64
Texas Tech	12	378	208	55.03	12	3.17	2165	5.73	12	3.17	107.24
South Florida	12	308	160	51.95	13	4.22	1985	6.44	11	3.57	109.38
South Carolina	12	365	204	55.89	12	3.29	2238	6.13	10	2.74	109.87
Clemson	12	373	211	56.57	14	3.75	2352	6.31	10	2.68	110.91

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Texas	13	652	88	50.15
USC	13	638	87	49.08
Louisville	12	521	69	43.42
Texas Tech	12	473	62	39.42
UCLA	12	469	62	39.08
Fresno State	13	491	63	37.77
Arizona State	12	442	59	36.83
Notre Dame	12	440	58	36.67
Boise State	13	469	64	36.08
Minnesota	12	429	56	35.75
Toledo	12	429	56	35.75
Oregon	12	414	49	34.50
Penn State	12	413	52	34.42
Wisconsin	13	446	58	34.31
Navy	12	410	55	34.17
Nevada	12	410	54	34.17
Virginia Tech	13	440	55	33.85
Bowling Green	11	372	51	33.82

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Alabama	12	128	15	10.7
Virginia Tech	13	168	19	12.9
LSU	13	185	21	14.2
Miami (Fla.)	12	171	19	14.3
Ohio State	12	183	21	15.3
Auburn	12	186	20	15.5
Boston College	12	191	21	15.9
Georgia	13	213	27	16.4
Texas	13	213	25	16.4
Penn State	12	204	24	17.0
Clemson	12	211	23	17.6
N.C. State	12	212	25	17.7
West Virginia	12	214	26	17.8
South Florida	12	216	28	18.0
TCU	12	223	26	18.6
Tennessee	11	205	21	18.6
Middle Tenn. St.	11	206	26	18.7
Florida	12	226	30	18.8

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY *(MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Bruce Eugene, Grambling	SR	12	456	254	55.70	6	1.32	4360	9.56	56	12.28	173.9
Josh Johnson, San Diego	SO	12	371	260	70.08	8	2.16	3256	8.78	36	9.70	171.5
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	SO	13	429	301	70.16	9	2.10	3797	8.85	39	9.09	170.3
Erik Meyer, Eastern Washington	SR	12	410	269	65.61	5	1.22	4003	9.76	30	7.32	169.3
Eric Sanders, Northern Iowa	SO	13	312	213	68.27	5	1.60	2929	9.39	23	7.37	168.2
Tarvaris Jackson, Alabama State	SR	11	320	195	60.94	5	1.56	2940	9.19	29	9.06	164.9
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	JR	10	193	114	59.07	5	2.59	1989	10.31	14	7.25	164.4
Justin Rascati, James Madison	JR	11	214	149	69.63	5	2.34	1822	8.51	17	7.94	162.7
Connor Jostes, Drake	SR	10	186	111	59.68	5	2.69	1580	8.49	19	10.22	159.4
Steve LaFalce, Western Illinois	JR	11	298	201	67.45	8	2.68	2586	8.68	19	6.38	156.0
Luke Drone, Illinois State	SO	11	332	214	64.46	12	3.61	2930	8.83	22	6.63	153.2
Richie Williams, Appalachian State	SR	15	338	211	62.43	4	1.18	2809	8.31	20	5.92	149.4
Joel Sambursky, Southern Illinois	SR	13	330	210	63.64	9	2.73	2695	8.17	22	6.67	148.8
Anton Clarkson, Hofstra	JR	10	361	238	65.93	10	2.77	3020	8.37	18	4.99	147.1
Cleveland McCoy, South Carolina State	SR	11	191	108	56.54	6	3.14	1692	8.86	13	6.81	147.1
Jacob Phillips, William & Mary	SO	10	192	123	64.06	7	3.65	1564	8.15	12	6.25	145.8
Ingle Martin, Furman	SR	14	349	212	60.74	13	3.72	2959	8.48	20	5.73	143.4
Joseph Lewis, Southern University	JR	9	342	217	63.45	7	2.05	2496	7.30	19	5.56	139.0
Justin Haddix, Western Kentucky	JR	11	230	131	56.96	10	4.35	1892	8.23	15	6.52	138.9
Aries Nelson, Mississippi Valley	JR	11	350	200	57.14	9	2.57	2942	8.41	17	4.86	138.6
Barrick Nealy, Texas State	SR	14	363	208	57.30	9	2.48	2875	7.92	21	5.79	138.0
Liam Coen, Massachusetts	SO	10	274	175	63.87	7	2.55	2175	7.94	10	3.65	137.5
Tom Zetts, Youngstown State	SO	11	258	154	59.69	6	2.33	1949	7.55	14	5.43	136.4
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	JR	11	356	217	60.96	9	2.53	2594	7.29	20	5.62	135.6
Sean Schaefer, Towson	FR	11	365	226	61.92	17	4.66	2772	7.59	20	5.48	134.5
Joseph DiGiacomo, Brown	JR	10	231	121	52.38	8	3.46	1800	7.79	16	6.93	133.8

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Bruce Eugene, Grambling	SR	12	80	331	174	157	456	4360	536	4517	8.43	376.4
Erik Meyer, Eastern Washington	SR	12	92	495	274	221	410	4003	502	4224	8.41	352.0
Ricky Santos, New Hampshire	SO	13	119	658	159	499	429	3797	548	4296	7.84	330.5
Trey Willie, Southeastern La.	SR	10	133	687	238	449	404	2777	537	3226	6.01	322.6
Josh Johnson, San Diego	SO	12	86	454	75	379	371	3256	457	3635	7.95	302.9
John Sciarra, Wagner	SR	11	58	132	151	-19	469	3321	527	3302	6.27	300.2
Anton Clarkson, Hofstra	JR	10	74	132	185	-53	361	3020	435	2967	6.82	296.7
Travis Lulay, Montana State	SR	11	133	761	150	611	388	2629	521	3240	6.22	294.5
Tarvaris Jackson, Alabama State	SR	11	103	482	197	285	320	2940	423	3225	7.62	293.2
Aries Nelson, Mississippi Valley	JR	11	113	472	218	254	350	2942	463	3196	6.90	290.5
Anthony Doria, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	10	61	91	121	-30	409	2895	470	2865	6.10	286.5
Joseph Lewis, Southern University	JR	9	91	288	236	52	342	2496	433	2548	5.88	283.1
Barrick Nealy, Texas State	SR	14	159	1215	158	1057	363	2875	522	3932	7.53	280.9
Luke Drone, Illinois State	SO	11	72	271	145	126	332	2930	404	3056	7.56	277.8
Josh Greco, Eastern Kentucky	SO	11	87	306	123	183	387	2861	474	3044	6.42	276.7
Frank Jankowski, Villanova	SO	11	54	82	192	-110	421	3058	475	2948	6.21	268.0
Michael Jump, La Salle	SO	10	54	160	181	-21	372	2607	426	2586	6.07	258.6
Blayne Baggett, Indiana State	SR	11	74	265	192	73	473	2741	547	2814	5.14	255.8
Kevin Hoyng, Dayton	JR	10	114	716	158	558	193	1989	307	2547	8.30	254.7
Collin Drafts, Charleston Southern	JR	11	122	370	192	178	356	2594	478	2772	5.80	252.0
Brian Boland, Monmouth	JR	10	47	285	101	184	323	2334	370	2518	6.81	251.8
Sean Schaefer, Towson	FR	11	65	185	199	-14	365	2772	430	2758	6.41	250.7
Richie Williams, Appalachian State	SR	15	164	1012	76	936	338	2809	502	3745	7.46	249.7
Jefferson Adcock, Samford	JR	11	123	512	147	365	366	2338	489	2703	5.53	245.7
Jeff Mroz, Yale	SR	10	28	51	87	-36	364	2484	392	2448	6.24	244.8
Liam O'Hagan, Harvard	SO	10	127	584	141	443	262	2005	389	2448	6.29	244.8

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/G
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	10	912	364	395	462	283	7.54	2133	213.30
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	JR	11	1352	134	0	562	264	7.76	2048	186.18
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	1727	74	0	0	324	5.56	1801	180.10
Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois	JR	12	1457	190	0	408	313	6.57	2055	171.25
Tyjuan Massey, Robert Morris	SR	10	51	899	133	615	81	20.96	1698	169.80
Jeff Horton, Valparaiso	JR	11	1358	297	119	26	305	5.90	1800	163.64
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR	11	1702	79	0	0	360	4.95	1781	161.91
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	SO	10	1550	68	0	0	212	7.63	1618	161.80
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	JR	10	1139	336	0	139	296	5.45	1614	161.40
Omar Cuff, Delaware	SO	11	1205	414	0	0	290	5.58	1619	147.18
Todd Harris, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	1052	303	0	257	259	6.22	1612	146.55
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	SO	11	1396	215	0	0	326	4.94	1611	146.45
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	12	28	1419	186	109	114	15.28	1742	145.17
Charlie Spiller, Alcorn State	JR	11	34	794	0	760	72	22.06	1588	144.36
James Noble, Cal Poly	FR	11	1578	2	0	0	224	7.05	1580	143.64
Martin Gibson, Villanova	SR	11	796	93	0	646	204	7.52	1535	139.55
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	54	1004	29	16	60	18.38	1103	137.88
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State	SO	15	1433	558	0	47	321	6.35	2038	135.87
Travis Glasford, Western Illinois	SR	11	1052	432	0	0	263	5.64	1484	134.91
Jordan Scott, Colgate	FR	11	1364	116	0	0	330	4.48	1480	134.55
Laurnt Robinson, Illinois State	JR	11	0	1465	0	0	86	17.03	1465	133.18
Rondriekas Darby, South Carolina State	JR	11	116	629	99	610	65	22.37	1454	132.18
Michael Caputo, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	0	1433	0	0	92	15.58	1433	130.27
Dante Ross, Bucknell	SR	11	845	0	195	393	249	5.76	1433	130.27
Jeremy McCoy, Alcorn State	JR	9	1129	38	0	0	189	6.17	1167	129.67
Jermaine Austin, Georgia Southern	SR	12	1546	4	0	0	234	6.62	1550	129.17

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Michael Caputo, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	92	1433	12	8.36
Laurnt Robinson, Illinois State	JR	11	86	1465	12	7.82
Luke Palko, St. Francis (Pa.)	JR	11	85	812	7	7.73
J.J. Outlaw, Villanova	SR	11	83	878	7	7.55
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	12	87	1419	12	7.25
Shaun Grover, Wagner	SR	11	78	1031	8	7.09
Sam Logan, Indiana State	JR	11	77	849	5	7.00
Devale Ellis, Hofstra	SR	11	74	943	5	6.73
David Ball, New Hampshire	JR	13	87	1551	24	6.69
Marques Colston, Hofstra	SR	11	70	975	5	6.36
Arel Gordon, Maine	JR	11	70	484	1	6.36
Michael Sparks, Missouri State	SR	10	62	663	5	6.20
Henry Tolbert, Grambling	SR	12	74	1391	19	6.17
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	49	1004	11	6.13
Ashley Wright, Yale	JR	10	61	795	10	6.10
Adam Hannula, San Diego	SR	12	73	1000	11	6.08
Josh Taylor, Southeastern La.	SR	8	48	606	5	6.00

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Jay McCareins, Princeton	SR	10	9	236	2	.90
James Gasparella, Brown	SR	10	7	42	0	.70
Casey Klaus, Dayton	JR	10	6	146	1	.60
Bobbie Williams, Bethune-Cookman	SO	10	6	80	0	.60
Brian Ford, Wofford	SO	11	6	5	0	.55
Keldrick Holman, Stephen F. Austin	JR	11	6	112	0	.55
Codera Jackson, Youngstown State	JR	11	6	103	1	.55
Courtney Brown, Cal Poly	JR	13	7	54	1	.54
Doug Hewlett, Harvard	SO	10	5	67	0	.50
Pat FitzGerald, Davidson	SO	10	5	22	0	.50

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	21	0	0	126	12.60
David Ball, New Hampshire	JR	13	24	0	0	144	11.08
Jayson Foster, Georgia Southern	SO	12	21	0	0	126	10.50
Henry Tolbert, Grambling	SR	12	20	0	0	120	10.00
Omar Cuff, Delaware	SO	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Eric Rath, Lehigh	SR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Steve Morgan, Brown	SO	10	0	44	18	98	9.80
Alonzo Coleman, Hampton	JR	12	19	0	0	114	9.50
Obozua Ehikioya, Marist	SO	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR	11	17	0	0	102	9.27
Miles Austin, Monmouth	SR	8	12	0	0	72	9.00
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	10	15	0	0	90	9.00
Jerome Felton, Furman	SO	14	20	0	0	124	8.86
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	SO	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
James Noble, Cal Poly	FR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Andrew Paterini, Hampton	JR	12	0	44	20	104	8.67
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	JR	10	14	0	0	86	8.60
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	SR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40
Kevin Richardson, Appalachian State	SO	15	21	0	0	126	8.40
Ken Cornist, Idaho State	FR	11	15	0	0	90	8.18
Jonathan Hurt, Lafayette	JR	12	16	0	0	96	8.00
Chris James, Western Kentucky	SO	11	0	42	15	87	7.91

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Nick Hartigan, Brown	SR	10	314	1727	5.50	20	172.70
Scott Phaydavong, Drake	SO	10	204	1550	7.60	8	155.00
Joe Rubin, Portland State	SR	11	345	1702	4.93	17	154.73
James Noble, Cal Poly	FR	11	223	1578	7.08	16	143.45
Jermaine Austin, Georgia Southern	SR	12	233	1546	6.64	14	128.83
Donald Chapman, Tenn.-Martin	SO	11	302	1396	4.62	16	126.91
Jeremy McCoy, Alcorn State	JR	9	185	1129	6.10	5	125.44
Jordan Scott, Colgate	FR	11	320	1364	4.26	10	124.00
Jeff Horton, Valparaiso	JR	11	257	1358	5.28	10	123.45
Jayson Foster, Georgia Southern	SO	12	239	1481	6.20	21	123.42
Clay Green, Jacksonville State	JR	11	223	1352	6.06	11	122.91
Arkee Whitlock, Southern Illinois	JR	12	270	1457	5.40	14	121.42
Clifton Dawson, Harvard	JR	10	258	1139	4.41	11	113.90
Ed Pricolo, Sacred Heart	SR	10	222	1133	5.10	14	113.30
Joe Casey, Rhode Island	FR	11	235	1245	5.30	8	113.18
Eldra Buckley, Chattanooga	JR	11	217	1233	5.68	11	112.09
Rashard Pompey, Florida A&M	SR	10	194	1107	5.71	7	110.70
Alonzo Coleman, Hampton	JR	12	204	1326	6.50	19	110.50
Lex Hilliard, Montana	JR	12	249	1322	5.31	12	110.17
Omar Cuff, Delaware	SO	11	249	1205	4.84	14	109.55
Luke Siwula, Cornell	SO	10	252	1086	4.31	8	108.60
Lerron Moore, Western Kentucky	SR	10	174	1037	5.96	10	103.70

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Nick Feldman, Morehead State	SO	27	512	2	18.96
James Vernon, Southern University	SR	19	355	1	18.68
Steve Silva, Holy Cross	SR	22	395	2	17.95
Kory Alston, Gardner-Webb	JR	15	247	2	16.47
Roosevelt Kiser, Florida A&M	JR	14	229	0	16.36
Dennis Mitchell, Western Kentucky	SR	15	242	1	16.13
Brendan Ferrigno, Portland State	JR	17	259	1	15.24
Michael Boyle, New Hampshire	FR	27	411	2	15.22
Cortland Finnegan, Samford	SR	14	212	1	15.14
Craig Turner, Southern Illinois	SO	21	308	1	14.67
Brandon Stanford, Lafayette	SR	30	438	1	14.60
Marquay McDaniel, Hampton	SR	49	714	0	14.57
Landry Carter, Grambling	SO	16	217	1	13.56
Steven Whitehead, McNeese State	SO	19	255	0	13.42
Tuff Harris, Montana	SR	25	316	1	12.64
Toby Zeigler, Northwestern State	SR	15	182	0	12.13
Nick Ruhe, Dayton	JR	37	448	1	12.11
Brandon Markey, Brown	JR	27	325	1	12.04
Jamaal Jackson, Southeastern La.	SR	15	177	0	11.80
Eric Kimble, Eastern Washington	SR	16	186	0	11.63

PUNTING (MINIMUM 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	SO	11	59	2707	45.88
Erik Contos, Delaware State	SR	11	65	2876	44.25
Christian Koegel, Massachusetts	JR	11	49	2108	43.02
Rhian Madrid, Northern Arizona	JR	11	61	2623	43.00
David Simonhoff, Southeast Mo. St.	JR	11	63	2699	42.84
Ryan Feely, Jacksonville	SR	8	42	1787	42.55
Dominique Brown, N.C. A&T	SO	11	57	2417	42.40
Tim Chicoine, Cal Poly	SO	13	64	2710	42.34
Ryan Hoffman, Illinois State	SR	10	41	1729	42.17
Jim Hall, Southeastern La.	JR	10	43	1800	41.86
Tim Mayse, Western Carolina	JR	9	49	2048	41.80
Ryan Horvath, Drake	SR	10	40	1667	41.68
Cameron Muro, Hampton	SR	12	54	2240	41.48
Derek Pearson, Central Conn. St.	SR	11	57	2351	41.25
Brandon Perkins, Southern Utah	SR	10	69	2842	41.19
Travis Lulay, Montana State	SR	11	43	1769	41.14
Tyson Johnson, Montana	JR	11	63	2585	41.03
Adam James, Villanova	SR	10	42	1702	40.52

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Steve Morgan, Brown	SO	10	23	18	.783	1.80
Blake Bercegeay, McNeese State	FR	9	19	16	.842	1.78
Andrew Paterini, Hampton	JR	12	30	20	.667	1.67
Peter Gaertner, Delaware State	JR	10	21	16	.762	1.60
Derek Javarone, Princeton	SR	10	18	16	.889	1.60
Jaret Johnson, Idaho State	SR	11	19	17	.895	1.55
Rob Zarrilli, Hofstra	SO	11	19	17	.895	1.55
Joseph Fore, Richmond	SR	11	20	16	.800	1.45
Jeff Hastings, Montana State	JR	11	21	16	.762	1.45
A.J. Weitsman, Cornell	SR	10	15	14	.933	1.40
Chris James, Western Kentucky	SO	11	17	15	.882	1.36
Josh Hoke, Coastal Carolina	JR	11	22	14	.636	1.27
Wesley Taylor, Florida A&M	SO	11	25	14	.560	1.27
Joseph Blanco, Mississippi Valley	SO	11	14	13	.929	1.18
Joe Johnson, Weber State	SR	11	22	13	.591	1.18
Miro Kesic, Northeastern	SR	11	19	13	.684	1.18
Greg Kuehn, William & Mary	SR	11	22	13	.591	1.18
Mario Sanchez, Prairie View	FR	11	21	13	.619	1.18

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Ricky Williams, Bethune-Cookman	SR	21	659	2	31.38
Mike Malone, Western Carolina	SO	17	532	1	31.29
Tyjuan Massey, Robert Morris	SR	20	615	0	30.75
Rondriekas Darby, South Carolina St.	JR	20	610	2	30.50
Albert Turner, Southern University	JR	19	530	0	27.89
Brandon Taylor, Missouri State	SR	15	414	0	27.60
Kris Daniels, Sacramento State	JR	17	468	0	27.53
Bernard McGee, Ark.-Pine Bluff	FR	14	380	0	27.14
Charlie Spiller, Alcorn State	JR	28	760	2	27.14
Dwayne Ijames, Elon	SR	15	406	1	27.07
David Freeman, Richmond	SR	20	532	0	26.60
Larry Johnson, Lafayette	SR	21	558	0	26.57
Nick Turner, Murray State	SR	25	658	1	26.32
Rob Schulte, Montana	SO	23	601	0	26.13
Geoff Bean, Colgate	JR	20	515	0	25.75
Cleodis Williams, Duquesne	FR	12	306	0	25.50
David Jiles, Monmouth	SR	21	533	1	25.38
Duvaughn Flagler, Gardner-Webb	SO	20	507	0	25.35

TEAM LEADERS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Georgia Southern	12	768	4641	6.04	50	386.75
Nicholls State	10	626	3648	5.83	38	364.80
Rhode Island	11	681	3504	5.15	31	318.55
Wofford	11	636	3117	4.90	27	283.36
Dayton	10	503	2594	5.16	38	259.40
Drake	10	448	2570	5.74	29	257.00
Morehead State	12	601	3078	5.12	35	256.50
Cornell	10	570	2486	4.36	26	248.60
Bethune-Cookman	11	526	2721	5.17	38	247.36
Furman	14	679	3455	5.09	42	246.79
Hampton	12	562	2861	5.09	32	238.42
South Carolina State	11	554	2601	4.69	31	236.45
James Madison	11	486	2579	5.31	30	234.45
Western Kentucky	11	494	2514	5.09	25	228.55
Texas State	14	659	3198	4.85	45	228.43
Brown	10	439	2193	5.00	26	219.30
Jacksonville State	11	506	2368	4.68	28	215.27
Jacksonville	8	376	1700	4.52	16	212.50

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Duquesne	10	370	725	1.96	6	72.5
Cornell	10	360	883	2.45	6	88.3
Harvard	10	344	917	2.67	12	91.7
Howard	11	397	1093	2.75	12	99.4
Alabama A&M	12	388	1233	3.18	10	102.8
Sacred Heart	10	360	1031	2.86	12	103.1
Monmouth	10	315	1042	3.31	6	104.2
Lehigh	11	418	1148	2.75	14	104.4
James Madison	11	393	1175	2.99	12	106.8
Pennsylvania	10	381	1080	2.83	7	108.0
Albany (N.Y.)	11	410	1244	3.03	9	113.1
Western Kentucky	11	399	1244	3.12	18	113.1
Southern Illinois	13	453	1480	3.27	10	113.8
Cal Poly	13	523	1490	2.85	16	114.6
Delaware State	11	429	1264	2.95	12	114.9
Princeton	10	356	1157	3.25	8	115.7
Massachusetts	11	437	1277	2.92	5	116.1
Central Conn. St.	11	428	1288	3.01	16	117.1

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Grambling	12	845	5947	7.04	75	495.58
New Hampshire	13	980	6415	6.55	74	493.46
San Diego	12	914	5823	6.37	69	485.25
Eastern Washington	12	898	5734	6.39	55	477.83
Illinois State	11	835	5253	6.29	58	477.55
Dayton	10	710	4707	6.63	57	470.70
Furman	14	1060	6578	6.21	64	469.86
Ga. Southern	12	860	5637	6.55	64	469.75
Alabama State	11	759	5073	6.68	47	461.18
Gardner-Webb	11	870	4851	5.58	51	441.00
Texas State	14	1037	6147	5.93	69	439.07
Morehead State	12	885	5195	5.87	55	432.92
Drake	10	656	4303	6.56	52	430.30
Hofstra	11	781	4728	6.05	41	429.82
Rhode Island	11	841	4681	5.57	40	425.55
Mississippi Valley	11	756	4657	6.16	46	423.36
Appalachian State	15	1001	6347	6.34	61	423.13
Western Illinois	11	801	4610	5.76	48	419.09

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Duquesne	10	674	2059	3.05	19	205.90
Howard	11	659	2813	4.27	28	255.73
Massachusetts	11	684	2873	4.20	17	261.18
Cornell	10	611	2613	4.28	23	261.30
Delaware State	11	713	2966	4.16	25	269.64
Hampton	12	812	3251	4.00	22	270.92
South Carolina St.	11	703	3162	4.50	20	287.45
James Madison	11	718	3166	4.41	20	287.82
Dayton	10	617	2945	4.77	19	294.50
San Diego	12	745	3535	4.74	28	294.58
Lafayette	12	835	3563	4.27	23	296.92
Princeton	10	652	2976	4.56	20	297.60
Alabama A&M	12	748	3627	4.85	30	302.25
Pennsylvania	10	687	3030	4.41	27	303.00
Albany (N.Y.)	11	751	3359	4.47	23	305.36
Colgate	12	767	3706	4.83	30	308.83
Nicholls State	10	647	3091	4.78	30	309.10
Western Carolina	9	623	2795	4.49	24	310.56

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
New Hampshire	21	24	45	15	10	25	1.54
Eastern Illinois	21	20	41	14	9	23	1.50
Grambling	18	17	35	11	7	18	1.42
Central Conn. St.	14	15	29	10	6	16	1.18
South Carolina St.	19	8	27	8	6	14	1.18
Montana	12	18	30	9	8	17	1.08
Brown	11	13	24	5	9	14	1.00
Holy Cross	13	11	24	6	7	13	1.00
Jacksonville State	10	18	28	11	6	17	1.00
Portland State	11	14	25	5	9	14	1.00
Stony Brook	15	10	25	3	11	14	1.00
Youngstown State	8	18	26	8	8	16	.91
Davidson	9	19	28	5	14	19	.90
San Diego	10	15	25	7	8	15	.83
Dayton	7	15	22	9	5	14	.80
Stephen F. Austin	12	17	29	10	11	21	.73
William & Mary	8	19	27	10	9	19	.73
Nicholls State	10	12	22	12	3	15	.70

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Grambling	12	465	256	7	55.05	4408	17.22	58	367.3
E. Washington	12	438	278	9	63.47	4101	14.75	31	341.8
Hofstra	11	416	271	12	65.14	3371	12.44	20	306.5
Wagner	11	474	267	17	56.33	3332	12.48	26	302.9
New Hampshire	13	445	310	10	69.66	3901	12.58	40	300.1
Villanova	11	456	284	17	62.28	3284	11.56	19	298.5
San Diego	12	412	282	8	68.45	3572	12.67	39	297.7
St. Francis (Pa.)	11	465	276	12	59.35	3223	11.68	24	293.0
Southern University	9	350	222	7	63.43	2592	11.68	20	288.0
Mississippi Valley	11	366	211	11	57.65	3153	14.94	19	286.6
Eastern Kentucky	11	413	234	19	56.66	3119	13.33	28	283.5
Stephen F. Austin	11	478	230	11	48.12	3118	13.56	26	283.5
Southeastern La.	10	412	244	10	59.22	2805	11.50	22	280.5
Alabama State	11	324	197	5	60.80	3003	15.24	30	273.0
La Salle	11	434	227	19	52.30	2978	13.12	23	270.7
Towson	11	390	238	17	61.03	2968	12.47	22	269.8
Illinois State	11	338	217	12	64.20	2956	13.62	22	268.7
Western Illinois	11	336	219	10	65.18	2940	13.42	23	267.3

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Duquesne	10	304	130	42.76	18	5.92	1334	4.39	11	3.62	79.76
Hampton	12	343	155	45.19	12	3.50	1635	4.77	6	1.75	84.02
Delaware State	11	284	126	44.37	16	5.63	1702	5.99	10	3.52	95.09
San Diego	12	328	164	50.00	15	4.57	1872	5.71	9	2.74	97.85
W. Carolina	9	232	113	48.71	15	6.47	1191	5.13	14	6.03	98.81
E. Kentucky	11	334	168	50.30	19	5.69	2093	6.27	9	2.69	100.45
Princeton	10	296	143	48.31	19	6.42	1819	6.15	12	4.05	100.46
Grambling	12	361	179	49.58	17	4.71	2186	6.06	11	3.05	101.10
Colgate	12	352	180	51.14	19	5.40	2129	6.05	12	3.41	102.36
Bethune-Cookman	11	321	149	46.42	10	3.12	1913	5.96	12	3.74	102.57
S.C. State	11	290	151	52.07	8	2.76	1626	5.61	8	2.76	102.78
Harvard	10	359	179	49.86	18	5.01	2189	6.10	13	3.62	103.04
Dayton	10	243	126	51.85	15	6.17	1526	6.28	8	3.29	103.17
E. Washington	12	441	222	50.34	12	2.72	2437	5.53	16	3.63	103.25
Eastern Illinois	12	467	256	54.82	20	4.28	2644	5.66	14	3.00	103.69
Weber State	11	338	157	46.45	8	2.37	2064	6.11	12	3.55	104.68
Lafayette	12	355	176	49.58	11	3.10	2003	5.64	16	4.51	105.67
Montana State	11	304	154	50.66	11	3.62	1822	5.99	11	3.62	105.75

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Grambling	12	529	75	44.08
San Diego	12	511	69	42.58
New Hampshire	13	542	74	41.69
Dayton	10	403	57	40.30
Illinois State	11	431	58	39.18
Ga. Southern	12	456	64	38.00
Drake	10	376	52	37.60
Texas State	14	518	69	37.00
Brown	10	368	45	36.80
Lehigh	11	399	51	36.27
James Madison	11	391	54	35.55
Gardner-Webb	11	386	51	35.09
E. Washington	12	420	55	35.00
Bethune-Cookman	11	384	50	34.91
Furman	14	488	64	34.86
Southern Illinois	13	449	61	34.54
S.C. State	11	378	51	34.36
Morehead St.	12	407	55	33.92

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Massachusetts	11	146	17	13.3
Hampton	12	168	22	14.0
Dayton	10	141	19	14.1
S.C. State	11	166	20	15.1
James Madison	11	168	20	15.3
Duquesne	10	161	19	16.1
Youngstown St.	11	178	23	16.2
Princeton	10	163	20	16.3
Lafayette	12	204	23	17.0
San Diego	12	205	28	17.1
Albany (N.Y.)	11	194	23	17.6
Cal Poly	13	232	29	17.8
Richmond	13	231	30	17.8
Cornell	10	180	23	18.0
Montana	12	218	25	18.2
Alabama A&M	12	224	30	18.7
Appalachian St.	15	282	34	18.8
Monmouth	10	190	24	19.0

2005 NCAA STATISTICS

DIVISION I-A

ATLANTIC COAST

	Conference W	L	PF	PA	Overall W	L	PF	PA
Atlantic								
Florida State	5	3	219	180	8	5	376	286
Boston College	5	3	181	160	9	3	310	191
Clemson	4	4	222	161	8	4	316	211
N.C. State	3	5	136	182	7	5	249	212
Maryland	3	5	190	217	5	6	270	275
Wake Forest	3	5	202	227	4	7	269	316
Coastal								
Virginia Tech	7	1	263	86	11	2	440	168
Miami	6	2	238	118	9	3	325	171
Georgia Tech	5	3	154	162	7	5	222	241
North Carolina	4	4	148	188	5	6	198	288
Virginia	3	5	177	202	7	5	320	279
Duke	0	8	95	342	1	10	177	408

BIG EAST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
West Virginia	7	0	244	104	11	1	385	214
Louisville	5	2	273	175	9	3	521	284
Rutgers	4	3	188	199	7	5	344	298
USF	4	3	188	135	6	6	276	216
Pittsburgh	4	3	189	178	5	6	267	243
Connecticut	2	5	115	170	5	6	272	211
Cincinnati	2	5	117	230	4	7	192	345
Syracuse	0	7	73	196	1	10	152	295

BIG TEN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Penn State	7	1	282	141	11	1	413	204
Ohio State	7	1	275	118	10	2	392	183
Wisconsin	5	3	246	228	10	3	446	309
Iowa	5	3	253	254	7	5	388	407
Michigan	5	3	232	165	7	5	360	240
Northwestern	5	3	219	178	7	5	345	244
Minnesota	4	4	255	273	7	5	429	348
Purdue	3	5	222	212	5	6	330	309
Michigan State	2	6	237	247	5	6	372	316
Indiana	1	7	155	303	4	7	248	361
Illinois	0	8	94	351	2	9	187	435

BIG 12

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
Colorado	5	3	219	167	7	6	305	307
Iowa State	4	4	232	158	7	5	339	230
Nebraska	4	4	201	208	8	4	296	252
Missouri	4	4	200	236	7	5	369	350
Kansas	3	5	127	210	7	5	269	264
Kansas State	2	6	179	258	5	6	289	305
South								
Texas	8	0	405	137	13	0	652	213
Texas Tech	6	2	264	183	9	3	473	226
Oklahoma	6	2	241	190	8	4	323	277
Texas A&M	3	5	218	279	5	6	352	343
Baylor	2	6	140	240	5	6	236	291
Oklahoma State	1	7	164	321	4	7	222	344

CONFERENCE USA

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
UCF	7	1	245	204	8	5	373	373
Memphis	5	3	207	201	7	5	326	276
Southern Miss	5	3	238	182	7	5	355	272
East Carolina	4	4	194	232	5	6	267	317
UAB	3	5	235	212	5	6	307	264
Marshall	3	5	135	199	4	7	204	285
West								
Tulsa	6	2	276	180	9	4	430	305
UTEP	5	3	269	236	8	4	382	311
Houston	4	4	241	218	6	6	337	324
SMU	4	4	177	176	5	6	229	280
Tulane	1	7	171	257	2	9	234	348
Rice	1	7	201	292	1	10	241	447

MID-AMERICAN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Akron	5	3	204	174	7	6	307	318
Miami	5	3	272	194	7	4	371	258
Bowling Green	5	3	240	193	6	5	372	304
Ohio	3	5	162	243	4	7	192	336
Buffalo	1	7	107	241	1	10	110	327
Kent State	0	8	102	236	1	10	180	331
West								
Northern Illinois	6	2	263	169	7	5	389	274
Toledo	6	2	266	173	9	3	429	261
Western Michigan	5	3	282	267	7	4	354	342
Central Michigan	5	3	230	190	6	5	260	260
Ball State	4	4	230	259	4	7	233	416
Eastern Michigan	3	5	183	202	4	7	240	295

MOUNTAIN WEST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
TCU	8	0	306	151	11	1	371	199
BYU	5	3	297	237	6	6	368	316
Colorado State	5	3	197	210	6	6	291	318
New Mexico	4	4	230	250	6	5	326	327
Utah	4	4	247	217	7	5	322	279
San Diego State	4	4	206	184	5	7	323	325
Air Force	3	5	262	278	4	7	330	349
Wyoming	2	6	195	251	4	7	271	297
UNLV	1	7	135	297	2	9	207	381

PAC-10

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
USC	8	0	383	149	12	1	638	297
Oregon	7	1	278	189	10	2	414	268
UCLA	6	2	271	306	10	2	469	410
California	4	4	243	190	8	4	295	254
Arizona State	4	4	251	247	7	5	442	359
Stanford	4	4	180	241	5	6	269	237
Oregon State	3	5	195	261	5	6	293	365
Arizona	2	6	173	220	3	8	252	290
Washington State	1	7	227	292	4	7	368	346
Washington	1	7	169	275	2	9	237	337

SOUTHEASTERN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Georgia	6	2	209	134	10	3	384	213
Florida	5	3	205	178	9	3	343	226
South Carolina	5	3	175	193	7	5	284	279
Vanderbilt	3	5	223	271	5	6	299	321
Tennessee	3	5	147	138	5	6	205	205
Kentucky	2	6	160	277	3	8	239	375
West								
LSU	7	1	214	114	11	2	383	185
Auburn	7	1	262	122	9	3	386	186
Alabama	6	2	159	87	10	2	263	128
Arkansas	2	6	173	169	4	7	283	271
Mississippi State	1	7	78	211	3	8	153	259
Ole Miss	1	7	97	208	3	8	148	245

SUN BELT

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Arkansas State	5	2	182	163	6	6	294	303
Louisiana-Lafayette	5	2	203	161	6	5	286	304
Louisiana-Monroe	5	2	194	186	5	6	239	339
Florida International	3	4	172	191	5	6	257	323
Middle Tennessee	3	4	176	124	4	7	210	206
Troy	3	4	100	121	4	7	175	255
Florida Atlantic	2	5	109	179	2	9	148	339
North Texas	2	5	131	142	2	9	157	346

WESTERN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Nevada	7	1	297	224	9	3	410	383
Boise State	7	1	339	178	9	4	469	317
Louisiana Tech	6	2	259	192	7	4	316	281
Fresno State	6	2	292	143	8	5	491	292
Hawaii	4	4	264	244	5	7	368	428
San Jose State	2	6	173	241	3	8	248	357
Utah State	2	6	167	270	3	8	208	360
Idaho	2	6	180	313	2	9	243	419
New Mexico State	0	8	147	313	0	12	198	465

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L	PF	PA
Army	4	7	220	294
Navy	8	4	410	313
Notre Dame	9	3	440	294
Temple	0	11	107	498

DIVISION I-AA

ATLANTIC 10

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
New Hampshire	7	1	344	211	11	2	542	289
Massachusetts	6	2	178	95	7	4	259	146
Hofstra	5	3	206	171	7	4	338	222
Maine	3	5	150	251	5	6	216	283
Northeastern	2	6	182	250	2	9	248	340
Rhode Island	2	6	187	231	4	7	312	306
South								
Richmond	7	1	240	150	9	4	349	231
James Madison	5	3	243	130	7	4	391	168
Delaware	3	5	163	187	6	5	274	264
Towson	3	5	208	329	6	5	345	372
William & Mary	3	5	237	240	5	6	358	283
Villanova	2	6	185	278	4	7	257	350

BIG SKY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Washington	5	2	251	151	7	5	423	278
Montana State	5	2	194	175	7	4	276	251
Montana	5	2	173	109	8	4	306	218
Portland State	4	3	230	182	6	5	313	273
Weber State	4	3	172	171	6	5	277	277
Idaho State	3	4	184	215	5	6	298	304
Sacramento State	1	6	128	236	2	9	192	352
Northern Arizona	1	6	125	236	3	8	233	328

BIG SOUTH

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Coastal Carolina	3	1	126	100	9	2	338	220
Charleston Southern	3	1	115	98	7	4	313	303
Gardner-Webb	2	2	114	140	5	6	386	367
VMI	2	2	110	112	3	8	230	319
Liberty	0	4	74	89	1	10	146	348

GATEWAY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Northern Iowa	5	2	165	147	11	4	449	357
Youngstown St.	5	2	185	107	8	3	306	178
Southern Illinois	5	2	227	190	9	4	449	298
Illinois State	4	3	285	177	7	4	431	234
Western Kentucky	4	3	204	193	6	5	339	292
Western Illinois	3	4	204	216	5	6	352	371
Missouri State	2	5	160	228	4	6	273	312
Indiana State	0	7	148	320	0	11	193	476

GREAT WEST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Cal Poly	4	1	125	66	9	4	354	232
UC Davis	4	1	111	78	6	5	217	184
North Dakota State	3	2	142	95	7	4	320	151
South Dakota State	3	2	134	100	6	5	363	251
Southern Utah	1	4	79	162	1	9	126	328
Northern Colorado	0	5	59	149	4	7	255	285

IVY LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Brown	6	1	252	166	9	1	368	218
Harvard	5	2	231	137	7	3	310	221
Princeton	5	2	192	109	7	3	245	163
Cornell	4	3	167	132	6	4	268	180
Yale	4	3	174	140	4	6	228	214
Penn	3	4	151	155	5	5	269	194
Dartmouth	1	6	64	162	2	8	126	260
Columbia	0	7	63	293	2	8	117	337

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Duquesne	4	0	133	45	7	3	264	161
Marist	3	1	121	83	7	4	305	283
La Salle	2	2	83	129	4	7	266	373
Iona	1	3	103	124	3	7	171	280
Saint Peter's	0	4	74	133	1	9	200	379

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Hampton	8	0	250	96	11	1	376	168
South Carolina State	7	1	276	116	9	2	378	166
Delaware State	6	2	174	118	7	4	225	213
Florida A&M	5	3	175	194	6	5	196	261
Bethune-Cookman	4	4	263	214	7	4	384	251
Norfolk State	2	6	194	266	4	7	292	346
N.C. A&T State	2	6	141	238	3	8	188	276
Howard	1	7	87	179	4	7	173	228
Morgan State	1	7	146	285	2	9	248	375

NORTHEAST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central Connecticut	5	2	161	145	7	4	273	274
Stony Brook	5	2	164	157	6	5	220	270
Monmouth	4	3	159	94	6	4	266	190
Albany	4	3	133	87	5	6	188	194
Wagner	3	4	159	204	6	5	287	294
Sacred Heart	3	4	160	195	4	6	239	287
St. Francis (Pa.)	3	4	196	219	3	8	287	343
Robert Morris	1	6	154	185	2	8	243	256

OHIO VALLEY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Illinois	8	0	273	124	9	3	319	230
Eastern Kentucky	7	1	299	132	7	4	346	233
Jacksonville State	6	2	211	131	6	5	292	224
Tennessee-Martin	4	4	224	201	6	5	297	319
Samford	4	4	182	222	5	6	279	322
Tennessee Tech	3	5	191	269	4	7	269	351
Southeast Missouri	2	6	212	238	2	9	268	374
Tennessee State	1	6	92	234	2	9	136	303
Murray State	0	7	143	276	2	9	218	377

PATRIOT LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Colgate	5	1	152	96	8	4	283	245
Lafayette	5	1	151	95	8	4	273	204
Lehigh	4	2	207	97	8	3	399	228
Holy Cross	3	3	167	141	6	5	317	263
Georgetown	2	4	83	177	4	7	116	292
Fordham	2	4	86	161	2	9	150	326
Bucknell	0	6	110	189	1	10	179	332

PIONEER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
San Diego	4	0	191	78	10	1	464	165
Dayton	3	1	142	79	9	1	403	141
Drake	2	2	148	90	6	4	376	229
Valparaiso	1	3	86	185	3	8	187	424
Butler	0	4	45	180	0	11	154	468
South								
Morehead State	3	0	106	37	8	3	367	289
Jacksonville	2	1	66	70	4	4	236	211
Davidson	1	2	70	58	4	6	201	237
Austin Peay	0	3	44	121	2	9	140	412

SOUTHERN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Appalachian State	6	1	271	117	11	3	434	266
Furman	5	2	253	192	11	3	488	383
Georgia Southern	5	2	242	107	8	4	456	277
Western Carolina	4	3	155	164	5	4	179	178
Chattanooga	3	4	156	218	6	5	245	339
Wofford	3	4	114	168	6	5	249	292
The Citadel	2	5	127	199	4	7	194	316
Elon	0	7	69	222	3	8	173	281

SOUTHLAND

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Texas State	5	1	203	114	11	3	518	284
Nicholls State	5	1	198	151	6	4	308	226
McNeese State	3	3	132	191	5	4	221	287
Northwestern State	3	3	139	121	5	5	215	240
Southeastern La.	2	4	153	170	4	6	279	275
Sam Houston State	2	4	159	146	3	7	270	288
Stephen F. Austin	1	5	139	230	5	6	324	380

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
East								
Alabama A&M	7	2	224	165	9	3	299	224
Alabama State	6	3	317	200	6	5	358	255
Miss. Valley State	5	4	277	254	6	5	360	292
Alcorn State	5	4	208	227	6	5	253	282
Jackson State	2	7	180	325	2	9	201	365
West								
Grambling State	9	0	395	175	11	1	529	236
Southern	4	5	250	239	4	5	250	239
Prairie View A&M	3	6	150	276	5	6	229	296
Ark.-Pine Bluff	3	6	212	252	3	8	238	296
Texas Southern	1	8	194	294	1	10	222	385

INDEPENDENT

	W	L	PF	PA
Savannah State	0	11	215	480

DIVISION II

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	Conference W	L	PF	PA	Overall W	L	PF	PA
East								
Bowie State	5	2	175	121	8	3	311	212
Virginia State	5	2	196	133	8	3	254	200
Shaw	4	3	198	196	5	5	246	280
St. Paul's	3	4	135	134	4	6	171	201
Virginia Union	2	5	131	223	3	7	196	346
Elizabeth City	1	6	58	114	2	8	122	193
West								
N.C. Central	6	1	202	129	10	1	370	231
Winston-Salem State	6	1	203	123	6	4	231	215
St. Augustine's	5	2	180	123	8	2	250	135
Fayetteville State	4	3	204	151	6	4	302	218
Livingstone	1	6	133	254	1	9	160	375
Johnson C. Smith	0	7	77	191	0	10	106	262

GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Grand Valley State	9	0	317	102	13	0	434	159
Saginaw Valley State	9	1	272	130	11	2	344	191
Ashland	8	2	222	92	9	2	252	107
Northwood	8	2	327	168	9	3	399	220
Michigan Tech	6	3	232	163	6	3	232	163
Indianapolis	5	5	167	188	6	5	201	201
Hillsdale	4	6	216	222	5	6	240	229
Wayne State (Mich.)	3	7	158	224	3	7	158	224
Ferris State	3	7	251	311	3	8	258	355
Gannon	3	7	181	335	3	8	204	365
Findlay	2	8	205	329	3	8	236	339
Northern Michigan	2	8	231	394	2	8	231	394
Mercyhurst	2	8	220	341	2	8	220	341

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central Washington	6	0	235	116	8	2	380	230
Western Washington	3	3	139	152	4	6	236	288
Western Oregon	2	4	142	206	5	6	247	328
Humboldt State	1	5	113	155	5	6	251	212

GULF SOUTH

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central Arkansas	8	1	360	134	11	3	563	258
North Alabama	7	2	347	146	11	3	509	250
West Georgia	7	2	282	140	7	4	305	302
Valdosta State	7	2	269	190	9	3	338	249
Delta State	6	3	291	223	7	4	360	286
Arkansas Tech	6	3	245	263	7	3	280	295
Harding	4	5	154	193	6	5	246	234
Southern Arkansas	4	5	262	253	6	5	327	267
Henderson State	2	7	171	294	3	8	246	350
Ouachita Baptist	2	7	217	321	2	8	238	359
Arkansas-Monticello	1	8	146	395	1	10	160	491
West Alabama	0	9	125	317	2	9	196	329

LONE STAR

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North								
Southeastern Okla.	5	0	168	108	8	2	314	198
Texas A&M-Commerce	4	1	143	81	5	5	219	183
Central Oklahoma	2	3	140	120	3	7	281	288
East Central	2	3	128	131	3	7	199	275
Northeastern State	2	3	85	144	2	9	190	322
Southwestern Okla.	0	5	81	161	1	10	126	325
South								
West Texas A&M	5	1	250	223	10	2	484	353
Angelo State	4	2	200	225	9	3	378	344
Tarleton State	3	3	155	123	7	3	267	185
Midwestern State	3	3	218	185	6	4	358	260
Texas A&M-Kingsville	2	4	138	177	6	4	307	235
Eastern New Mexico	2	4	190	218	5	6	307	330
Abilene Christian	2	4	145	145	4	6	253	268

MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Washburn	7	1	297	201	9	3	430	329
Missouri Western	6	2	219	149	9	3	344	234
NW Missouri St.	6	2	243	156	11	4	440	306
Pittsburg State	6	2	396	272	10	4	655	367
Central Missouri	5	3	303	169	7	3	400	175
Emporia State	3	5	167	211	4	6	240	264

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Missouri Southern	2	6	202	248	3	7	267	314
Southwest Baptist	1	7	170	386	3	8	254	500
Truman	0	8	112	317	2	9	206	413

NORTH CENTRAL

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
South Dakota	4	2	244	155	9	2	547	247
North Dakota	4	2	197	96	10	3	450	172
Nebraska-Omaha	4	2	199	175	8	3	388	260
Minnesota Duluth	4	2	200	188	8	4	358	301
St. Cloud State	3	3	139	158	8	3	334	220
Augustana	2	4	102	231	6	5	295	289
Minnesota State	0	6	96	174	2	9	262	268

NORTHEAST-10

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
C.W. Post	8	1	423	157	10	3	552	319
Southern Connecticut	7	2	443	191	8	3	507	274
Bentley	7	2	324	176	7	3	341	248
Bryant	6	3	257	238	7	3	312	245
American International	5	4	181	202	5	4	181	202
Stonehill	4	5	180	273	4	6	187	289
Assumption	3	6	137	250	4	6	164	267
Merrimack	3	6	224	307	4	6	259	307
Pace	2	7	150	250	3	7	188	277
Saint Anselm	0	9	87	362	1	9	127	376

NORTHERN SUN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Concordia-St. Paul	6	1	297	159	9	3	424	297
Winona State	6	1	306	97	8	3	413	224
Northern State	5	2	195	142	6	5	288	255
Bemidji State	4	3	248	209	7	3	353	268
Wayne State	4	3	196	168	4	7	241	290
SW Minnesota State	1	6	124	221	4	7	221	302
MSU Moorhead	1	6	103	229	1	9	132	369
Minnesota-Crookston	1	6	114	358	1	10	128	562

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern								
Bloomsburg	6	0	215	113	11	1	466	210
West Chester	5	1	255	107	8	4	400	264
East Stroudsburg	4	2	197	99	11	2	596	341
Millersville	3	3	133	127	5	6	220	238
Kutztown	2	4	129	155	2	8	190	258
Mansfield	1	5	122	253	1	10	199	492
Cheyney	0	6	53	250	2	9	117	387
Western								
California	5	1	227	104	8	2	421	141
Edinboro	5	1	171	56	8	2	314	93
Indiana	4	2	149	123	5	5	197	224
Slippery Rock	4	2	193	128	5	5	259	251
Shippensburg	2	4	119	142	4	7	221	269
Clarion	1	5	43	182	3	7	101	316
Lock Haven	0	6	47	214	2	9	88	431

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Nebraska-Kearney	7	1	312	157	9	3	439	264
Fort Lewis	6	2	282	206	6	4	296	306
Colorado Mines	6	2	285	210	6	5	374	334
Adams State	5	3	247	216	6	5	309	282
Mesa State	4	4	208	201	5	6	263	285
Chadron State	4	4	263	171	4	6	304	235
Fort Hays State	2	6	117	273	2	8	137	383
Western State	2	6	105	246	2	9	134	362
New Mexico Highlands	0	8	206	345	1	10	274	483

SOUTH ATLANTIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Presbyterian	7	0	230	65	10	2	402	170
Carson-Newman	5	2	202	120	8	2	332	163
Newberry	4	3	184	199	5	4	262	241
Catawba	3	4	167	174	6	5	278	227
Lenoir-Rhyne	3	4	99	158	5	5	168	222
Mars Hill	3	4	141	197	4	6	187	241
Wingate	2	5	150	184	5	5	271	226
Tusculum	1	6	95	171	3	7	143	218

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Albany State (Ga.)	8	1	284	175	8	2	304	203
Tuskegee	8	1	301	131	10	1	342	167
Fort Valley State	7	2	213	175	7	3	223	207
Stillman	5	4	195	149	6	4	229	180
Kentucky State	5	4	190	199	6	5	245	231
Benedict	4	5	199	212	6	5	256	237
Miles	3	6	167	196	4	7	211	216
Clark Atlanta	3	6	158	210	3	8	197	258
Morehouse	2	7	207	276	3	7	257	304
Lane	0	9	185	360	0	10	191	384

WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Shepherd	8	0	315	69	11	1	418	142
Glenville State	7	1	329	123	9	2	432	173
Charleston	6	2	201	134	8	3	283	194
West Liberty State	4	4	213	212	6	5	288	263
Fairmont State	4	4	209	119	4	6	215	194
Concord	3	5	163	236	4	7	206	308
W.Va. Wesleyan	2	6	176	319	3	8	269	466
West Virginia State	2	6	123	231	2	9	151	324
WVU Tech	0	8	103	389	0	11	115	570

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central State (Ohio)					0	5	26	139
Chowan (N.C.)					2	8	208	402
Lincoln (Mo.)					3	7	119	310
Missouri-Rolla					7	4	379	285
North Greenville (S.C.)					2	8	279	313
Panhandle State (Okla.)					1	10	89	480
St. Joseph's (Ind.)					7	4	265	222
Tiffin (Ohio)					6	5	267	230
Upper Iowa					3	8	161	330
Western New Mexico					5	5	247	248

DIVISION III

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
AMERICAN SOUTHWEST								
Mary Hardin-Baylor	7	1	327	65	9	1	407	95
Hardin-Simmons	7	2	291	175	8	2	329	187
Howard Payne	7	2	300	216	7	3	306	250
East Texas Baptist	6	3	198	199	6	4	205	250
Texas Lutheran	5	4	265	214	5	5	286	360
Louisiana College	4	4	287	297	4	5	320	340
McMurry	4	5	246	330	5	5	286	360
Sul Ross State	2	7	242	309	3	7	266	329
Mississippi College	1	8	189	303	2	8	241	319
Austin College	1	8	105	342	1	9	108	356
ATLANTIC CENTRAL								
Wesley	4	1	188	85	12	2	581	271
Salisbury	4	1	227	150	8	3	442	303
Brockport St.	4	1	135	75	5	5	203	187
Frostburg St.	1	4	78	131	6	5	203	197
Buffalo St.	1	4	101	157	3	6	186	264
Apprentice	1	4	41	166	4	6	147	242
CENTENNIAL								
Johns Hopkins	5	1	112	57	8	3	177	147
Franklin & Marshall	4	2	87	85	5	6	147	194
Dickinson	3	3	113	137	4	6	196	266
Gettysburg	3	3	67	70	4	6	182	243
McDaniel	2	4	99	102	5	5	210	216
Ursinus	2	4	115	144	4	6	191	227
Muhlenberg	2	4	69	67	3	7	138	142
COLLEGE CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN								
Augustana (Ill.)	7	0	233	87	10	2	410	218
North Central	6	1	260	126	9	2	412	199
Wheaton (Ill.)	4	3	194	142	7	3	323	172
Carthage	4	3	163	117	7	3	249	143
Elmhurst	3	4	183	219	6	4	311	256
Millikin	2	5	151	231	5	5	237	282
Illinois Wesleyan	2	5	122	189	3	7	156	268
North Park	0	7	59	254	3	7	135	287
EMPIRE EIGHT								
Ithaca	6	0	241	125	8	3	422	288
Alfred	5	1	158	101	9	2	326	171
St. John	4	2	233	118	8	3	442	197
Utica	3	3	123	211	6	4	226	278
Springfield	2	4	215	180	4	6	312	301
Norwich	1	5	90	212	3	7	162	331
Hartwick	0	6	202	315	4	6	375	388
HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Mt. St. Joseph	5	1	217	108	9	2	366	189
Defiance	4	2	187	130	6	4	230	220
Anderson	3	3	107	142	5	5	239	234
Franklin	3	3	176	163	5	5	306	254
Hanover	3	3	172	176	4	6	263	329
Bluffton	2	4	151	160	3	7	123	180
Manchester	1	5	102	233	2	8	202	391
ILLINI-BADGER								
Lakeland	7	0	314	69	8	2	369	177
Concordia (Wis.)	6	1	274	80	7	3	353	174
Aurora University	5	2	162	123	5	4	188	192
Greenville	4	3	181	118	4	5	205	202
Benedictine	3	4	152	192	3	7	185	340
MacMurray	2	5	172	220	3	6	213	284
Eureka	1	6	64	292	1	8	80	361
Concordia (Ill.)	0	7	93	318	0	10	120	463
IOWA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Coe College	7	1	244	125	9	2	331	180
Central College	7	1	236	119	9	2	304	198
Wartburg College	6	2	189	151	7	3	225	211
Luther College	5	3	221	187	6	4	289	245
Buena Vista	4	4	157	200	5	5	192	241
Simpson College	3	5	153	140	5	5	221	167
Loras College	2	6	103	136	3	7	179	168
Cornell College	1	7	130	260	2	8	151	287
Dubuque	1	7	157	272	2	8	206	304
LIBERTY								
Union	7	0	219	129	11	1	369	229
Hobart	6	1	222	139	9	2	314	182
Rensselaer	5	2	234	150	8	2	335	189
Worcester Polytechnic	4	3	135	170	6	3	215	208
Rochester	3	4	180	159	4	6	260	246
Merchant Marine	2	5	104	177	3	7	172	257
St. Lawrence	1	6	140	189	2	7	183	231
Coast Guard	0	7	47	168	2	7	104	180
MICHIGAN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Albion	6	1	321	83	7	4	402	192
Adrian	5	2	195	108	8	2	338	140
Hope	5	2	222	130	5	5	254	254
Alma	4	3	199	174	6	4	308	266
Olivet	4	3	195	200	5	5	265	269
Kalamazoo	3	4	138	234	4	6	181	348
Wisconsin Lutheran	1	6	90	221	1	9	112	299
Tri-State	0	7	129	322	0	10	162	455
MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES COLLEGIATE								
Delaware Valley	9	0	343	155	12	1	450	237
Wilkes	8	1	279	147	8	3	299	210
Widener	6	3	262	182	8	3	320	228
Moravian	5	4	255	203	7	4	293	229
Lycoming	5	4	138	154	6	4	171	184
King's	5	4	265	193	5	5	272	235
Albright	4	5	233	243	5	5	267	276
FDU-Florham	4	5	215	304	4	6	235	346
Lebanon Valley	2	7	215	261	2	8	242	295
Susquehanna	1	8	137	293	2	8	161	309
Juniata	0	9	166	382	0	10	179	412
MIDWEST								
Monmouth College	9	0	404	138	10	1	447	226
St. Norbert	8	1	374	151	8	2	381	196
Carroll College	6	3	329	216	6	4	339	230
Ripon College	5	4	218	239	6	4	274	246
Beloit College	5	4	264	221	5	5	292	256
Lawrence University	4	5	242	236	4	5	242	236
Lake Forest College	3	6	145	260	4	6	166	270
Knox College	3	6	138	273	4	6	164	289
Illinois College	2	7	150	281	3	7	178	288
Grinnell College	0	9	151	400	1	9	182	423
MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Saint John's	8	0	343	85	11	1	504	157
Concordia	7	1	267	139	10	2	384	203
St. Olaf	6	2	300	209	8	2	408	232
Bethel	4	4	183	138	5	5	242	188
St. Thomas	4	4	218	213	4	5	239	237
Gustavus Adolphus	3	5	145	208	3	7	164	241
Carleton	2	6	112	255	4	6	178	290
Hamline	1	7	73	221	3	7	151	229
Augsburg	1	7	126	299	1	9	177	392
NEW ENGLAND FOOTBALL								
Bogan								
Fitchburg State	6	0	172	57	8	3	273	162
Bridgewater State	5	1	209	85	9	1	397	155
Maine Maritime	4	2	186	76	7	3	263	216
Worcester State	3	3	155	93	5	5	267	177
Westfield State	2	4	65	122	4	5	100	166
Framingham State	1	5	35	217	2	7	57	315
Mass. Maritime	0	6	80	190	0	9	121	279
Boyd								
Curry	6	0	216	69	9	3	343	215
Endicott	5	1	204	68	7	3	252	136
UMass-Dartmouth	4	2	127	80	5	5	178	204
MIT	2	4	91	179	3	6	148	294
Western New England	2	4	130	138	3	6	208	195
Salve Regina	2	4	101	140	2	6	156	232
Nichols	0	6	55	185	0	9	100	281
NEW ENGLAND SMALL COLLEGE								
Trinity	8	0	276	36	8	0	276	36
Colby	7	1	206	114	7	1	206	114
Bowdoin	6	2	131	124	6	2	131	124
Williams	6	2	215	153	6	2	215	153
Amherst	5	3	201	98	5	3	201	98
Middlebury	3	5	153	141	3	5	153	141
Bates	2	6	116	224	2	6	116	224
Tufts	2	6	109	153	2	6	109	153
Hamilton	1	7	96	295	1	7	96	295
Wesleyan	0	8	94	259	0	8	94	259
NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC								
Rowan	5	1	188	87	11	2	370	196
SUNY-Cortland	5	1	169	65	7	3	268	155
Montclair State	4	2	114	113	5	5	191	205
Western Connecticut	3	3	124	156	6	4	306	233
Kean	2	4	93	121	4	6	201	248
The College of N.J.	1	5	92	139	3	7	168	232
William Paterson	1	5	49	148	5	5	139	175
NORTH COAST ATHLETIC								
Wabash	7	0	270	67	11	1	405	128
Kenyon	6	1	195	202	6	4	254	295
Ohio Wesleyan	5	2	149	131	7	3	236	191
Wittenberg	5	2	262	72	5	5	312	205
Wooster	3	4	154	204	6	4	242	235
Denison	3	4	199	201	5	5	275	259
Allegheny	3	4	200	138	3	7	247	218
Oberlin	2	5	151	166	3	7	235	255
Hiram	1	6	91	311	1	9	104	425
Earlham	0	7	34	213	1	9	151	371
NORTHWEST								
Linfield	4	0	214	73	10	1	527	187
Willamette	3	1	116	141	5	4	281	258
Whitworth	2	2	166	149	5	3	306	232
Puget Sound	1	3	74	142	4	5	199	248
Pacific Lutheran	0	4	88	153	3	6	262	291
Lewis & Clark	*Did not play an NWC game*				0	4	76	198
OHIO ATHLETIC								
Mount Union	8	1	406	68	14	1	620	154
Capital	7	2	292	113	10	3	412	177
Ohio Northern	7	2	357	146	8	2	405	149
John Carroll	6	3	265	189	7	3	303	202
Otterbein	6	3	222	227	7	3	236	227
Marietta	4	5	172	309	5	5	197	316
Baldwin-Wallace	3	6	148	181	4	6	171	198
Muskingum	2	7	117	207	3	7	127	220
Wilmington	2	7	95	293	2	8	113	314
Heidelberg	0	9	128	469	0	10	142	530
OLD DOMINION ATHLETIC								
Bridgewater	6	0	244	150	10	2	445	328
Hampden-Sydney	4	2	227	158	8	2	450	252
Washington & Lee	4	2	193	117	7	3	299	191
Guilford	4	2	247	212	5	5	336	358
Catholic	1	5	166	202	2	8	269	337
Randolph-Macon	1	5	124	215	2	8	181	285
Emory & Henry	1	5	63	210	1	9	104	369
PRESIDENTS' ATHLETIC								
Thiel College (Pa.)	6	0	202	84	11	1	395	198
Washington & Jefferson	5	1	247	110	9	2	461	181
Thomas More	4	2	106	88	5	5	164	168
Waynesburg	2	4	143	124	4	6	232	186
Westminster (Pa.)	2	4	84	162	4	6	150	242
Grove City	2	4	62	114	3	7	122	191
Bethany	0	6	68	230	1	9	146	352
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Occidental	6	0	245	139	9	1	392	249
Cal Lutheran	5	1	175	115	8	1	330	170
Redlands	4	2	178	133	5	4	255	210
La Verne	3	3	159	193	5	4	248	263
Pomona-Pitzer	2	4	147	161	4	5	206	195
Claremont-M-S	1	5	101	205	3	6	199	286
Whittier	0	6	121	180	2	7	197	248
SOUTHERN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Trinity (Texas)	5	0	161	22	9	1	255	118
DePauw	5	0	166	45	7	2	277	114
Sewanee	4	2	98	124	5	5	151	223
Centre	3	3	138	143	7	3	253	227
Rose-Hulman	2	4	101	165	5	5	243	278
Millsaps	1	5	91	213	2	7	155	315
Rhodes	0	6	100	143	2	8	200	214
UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION								
Chicago	3	0	76	13	5	4	226	116
Washington (Mo.)	2	1	56	41	6	4	168	168
Carnegie Mellon	1	2	36	83	5	5	248	207
Case	0	3	34	65	3	7	147	206
UPPER MIDWEST ATHLETIC								
North								
Northwestern College	7	0	305	25	8	3	387	152
Martin Luther	6	1	176	50	6	3	199	115
Minnesota-Morris	4	3	202	145	4	6	228	236
Crown College	3	4	127	187	3	5	127	201
Trinity Bible	0	7	13	353	1	9	46	474
South								
Rockford College	5	2	287	117	7	3	348	155
Westminster College	5	2	158	99	5	5	186	210
Maranatha Baptist	2	5	142	232	4	5	209	245
Blackburn College	2	5	194	173	2	8	216	285
Principia College	1	6	101	324	1	8	132	424
USA SOUTH								
Ferrum	6	1	312	196	9	2	439	301
Methodist	6	1	240	163	8	2	365	257
Averett	5	2	248	213	7	3	345	315
Christopher Newport	5	2	234	114	6	4	319	205
N.C. Wesleyan	3	4	183	217	4	6	268	310
Maryville	2	5	184	249	3	7	246	330
Greensboro	1	6	138	239	1	9	187	342
Shenandoah	0	7	103	251	1	9	155	310
WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Wis.-Whitewater	7	0	267	103	14	1	617	245
Wis.-Eau Claire	5	2	137	109	6	4	221	179
Wis.-Oshkosh	4	3	146	175	7	3	245	230
Wis.-La Crosse	4	3	191	150	5	4	238	198
Wis.-Stout	3	4	158	149	6	4	275	173
Wis.-Stevens Point	3	4	127	153	4	6	188	249
Wis.-River Falls	2	5	115	188	3	7	200	263
Wis.-Platteville	0	7	137	251	1	9	191	333

INDEPENDENTS

	CONFERENCE W	CONFERENCE L	OVERALL PF	OVERALL PA
Huntingdon (Ala.)	7	2	306	171
Northwestern (Minn.)	8	3	387	152
Rockford	7	3	351	155
Martin Luther	5	3	164	108
Westminster (Mo.)	5	5	186	210
Maranatha Baptist	4	5	209	245
Husson	3	4	214	146
Minnesota-Morris	4	6	228	236
Plymouth State	4	6	167	252
Crown	3	5	134	213
Chapman	2	7	165	296
Blackburn	2	8	216	285
Colorado College	2	8	232	434
Principia	1	8	132	424
Mount Ida	1	9	182	434
Becker	0	8	126	362
Macalester	0	9	101	381
Menlo	0	10	176	481

NAIA

	CONFERENCE W	CONFERENCE L	OVERALL W	OVERALL L
CENTRAL STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE				
Texas College	5	0	6	4
Northwestern Okla. St.	4	1	4	5
Southern Nazarene (Okla.)	3	2	6	4
Bacone (Okla.)	1	4	4	7
Peru State (Neb.)	0	5	1	10
DAKOTA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
Dickinson State (N.D.)	6	1	7	4
Valley City St. (N.D.)	6	1	7	3
Black Hills St. (S.D.)	5	2	7	3
Minot State (N.D.)	3	4	4	6
Dakota St. (S.D.)	3	4	4	6
Jamestown (N.D.)	2	4	3	7
Mayville State (S.D.)	1	6	2	8
South Dakota Tech	1	6	1	9
FRONTIER CONFERENCE				
Carroll (Mont.)	8	0	14	0
Montana Tech	6	2	9	4
Montana St.-Northern	3	5	5	5
Montana-Western	2	6	2	9
Rocky Mountain (Mont.)	1	7	1	10
GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
Morningside (Iowa)	10	0	12	1
Sioux Falls (S.D.)	9	1	11	2
Northwestern (Iowa)	7	3	8	3
Midland Luth. (Neb.)	6	4	6	4
Nebraska Wesleyan	5	5	5	5
Concordia (Neb.)	4	6	4	6
Dana (Neb.)	4	6	5	6
Hastings (Neb.)	4	6	4	6
Briar Cliff (Iowa)	3	7	4	7
Doane (Neb.)	2	8	2	8
Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)	1	9	1	9
HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONF.				
Evangel (Mo.)	8	2	9	3
Graceland (Iowa)	8	2	9	3
Mid-Amer. Nazarene	7	3	7	3
Lindenwood (Mo.)	7	3	7	4
Benedictine (Kan.)	6	4	6	4
William Jewell (Mo.)	6	4	6	4
Missouri Valley	4	6	5	6
Culver-Stockton (Mo.)	3	7	3	7
Central Methodist (Mo.)	3	7	3	8
Baker (Kan.)	3	7	3	8
Avila (Mo.)	0	10	0	10
KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONF.				
Tabor (Kan.)	9	0	11	1
Kansas Wesleyan	7	2	8	2
Friends (Kan.)	6	3	7	3
Sterling (Kan.)	5	4	5	4
McPherson (Kan.)	4	5	5	5
Ottawa (Kan.)	4	5	5	5
St. Mary (Kan.)	4	5	5	5
Southwestern (Kan.)	2	7	3	7
Bethel (Kan.)	2	7	3	7
Bethany (Kan.)	2	7	2	8
MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE				
East				
Georgetown (Ky.)	8	0	9	3
Cumberlands (Ky.)	6	2	8	3
Pikeville (Ky.)	6	2	7	3
Union (Ky.)	4	4	4	6
Shorter (Ga.)	2	6	2	8
Virginia-Wise	1	7	4	7
West				
Bethel (Tenn.)	6	2	7	4
Lambuth (Tenn.)	5	3	5	6
Belhaven (Miss.)	4	4	5	6
Kentucky Wesleyan	3	5	3	7
Campbellsville (Ky.)	2	6	2	8
Cumberland (Tenn.)	1	7	2	8

	CONFERENCE W	CONFERENCE L	OVERALL W	OVERALL L
MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC. – MIDEAST				
St. Francis (Ind.)	7	0	13	1
Geneva (Pa.)	5	2	8	4
Walsh (Ohio)	4	2	8	3
Quincy (Ill.)	4	3	5	6
Urbana (Ohio)	3	4	6	5
Ohio Dominican	2	4	3	7
Malone (Ohio)	2	5	3	7
Taylor (Ind.)	0	7	0	10
Seton Hill (Pa.)	-	-	1	9
MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC. – MIDWEST				
St. Xavier (Ill.)	6	1	9	3
McKendree (Ill.)	6	1	8	3
St. Ambrose (Iowa)	4	2	8	3
William Penn (Iowa)	4	3	6	5
Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)	3	3	6	6
Trinity Int'l (Ill.)	2	5	3	7
Iowa Wesleyan	2	5	3	8
St. Francis (Ill.)	0	7	2	9
INDEPENDENTS				
Azusa Pacific (Calif.)			6	4
Eastern Oregon			6	3
Edward Waters (Fla.)			3	7
Southern Oregon			1	9
SW Assemblies (Texas)			2	8
Webber Int'l (Fla.)			4	4

I-A COACHING CHANGES FOR 2006

SCHOOL	FORMER	NEW
Boise State	Dan Hawkins	Chris Petersen
Buffalo	Jim Hofher	Turner Gill
Colorado	Gary Barnett	Dan Hawkins
Idaho	Nick Holt	Dennis Erickson
Kansas State	Bill Snyder	Ron Prince
Middle Tennessee	Andy McCollum	Rick Stockstill
Rice	Ken Hatfield	Todd Graham
San Diego State	Tom Craft	Chuck Long
Temple	Bobby Wallace	Al Golden
Wisconsin	Barry Alvarez	Bret Bielema

BOWL GAMES

Alamo Bowl	Nebraska 32, Michigan 28
Capital One Bowl	Wisconsin 24, Auburn 10
Champs Sports Bowl	Clemson 19, Colorado 10
Cotton Bowl	Alabama 13, Texas Tech 10
Emerald Bowl	Utah 38, Georgia Tech 10
Fort Worth Bowl	Kansas 42, Houston 13
Gator Bowl	Virginia Tech 35, Louisville 24
GMAC Bowl	Toledo 45, UTEP 13
Hawaii Bowl	Nevada 49, UCF 48
Holiday Bowl	Oklahoma 17, Oregon 14
Houston Bowl	TCU 27, Iowa State 24
Independence Bowl	Missouri 38, South Carolina 31
Insight Bowl	Arizona State 45, Rutgers 40
Las Vegas Bowl	California 35, BYU 28
Liberty Bowl	Tulsa 31, Fresno State 24
MPC Computers Bowl	Boston College 27, Boise State 21
Meineke Car Care Bowl	N.C. State 14, South Florida 0
Motor City Bowl	Memphis 38, Akron 31
Music City Bowl	Virginia 34, Minnesota 31
New Orleans Bowl	Southern Miss 31, Arkansas St. 19
Outback Bowl	Florida 31, Iowa 24
Peach Bowl	LSU 40, Miami 3
Poinsettia Bowl	Navy 51, Colorado State 30
Sun Bowl	UCLA 50, Northwestern 38
Fiesta Bowl	Ohio State 34, Notre Dame 20
Sugar Bowl	West Virginia 38, Georgia 35
Orange Bowl	Penn State 26, Florida State 23
Rose Bowl	Texas 41, USC 38

VINCE YOUNG, QB, TEXAS

DIVISION I-AA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

New Hampshire 55	Colgate 21
Northern Iowa 41	Eastern Washington 38
Cal Poly 35	Montana 21
Texas State 50	Georgia Southern 35
Richmond 38	Hampton 10
Furman 14	Nicholls State 12
Southern Illinois 21	Eastern Illinois 6
Appalachian State 34	Lafayette 23

QUARTERFINALS

Northern Iowa 24	New Hampshire 21
Texas State 14	Cal Poly 7
Furman 24	Richmond 20
Appalachian State 38	Southern Illinois 24

SEMIFINALS

Northern Iowa 40	Texas State 37
Appalachian State 29	Furman 23

CHAMPIONSHIP

Appalachian State 21	Northern Iowa 16

DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Central Arkansas 28	Albany State 20
North Alabama 40	Valdosta State 13
Pittsburg State 49	Nebraska-Kearney 20
NW Missouri State 45	Angelo State 14
C.W. Post 24	West Chester 20
East Stroudsburg 55	Southern Conn. St. 33
North Dakota 23	Minnesota Duluth 12
Saginaw Valley 31	Northwood 16

SECOND ROUND

Central Arkansas 52	Presbyterian 28
North Alabama 24	N.C. Central 21
Pittsburg State 41	West Texas A&M 3
NW Missouri State 42	Washburn 32
C.W. Post 28	Shepherd 21
East Stroudsburg 52	Bloomsburg 39
Grand Valley State 17	North Dakota 3
Saginaw Valley 24	Nebraska-Omaha 21

QUARTERFINALS

North Alabama 41	Central Arkansas 38
NW Missouri State 21	Pittsburg State 10
East Stroudsburg 55	C.W. Post 28
Grand Valley State 24	Saginaw Valley 17

SEMIFINALS

NW Missouri State 25	North Alabama 24
Grand Valley State 55	East Stroudsburg 20

CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Valley St. 21	NW Missouri State 17

DIVISION III PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Linfield 63	Occidental 21
Concordia-Moorhead 27	Coe 14
St. John's (Minn.) 62	Monmouth (Ill.) 3
Wis.-Whitewater 34	Central (Iowa) 14
Mary Hardin-Baylor 35	Trinity (Texas) 6
Wesley 59	Ferrum 14
Bridgewater (Va.) 30	Washington & Jefferson 21
Thiel 28	Johns Hopkins 3
Wabash 38	Albion 20
Capital 21	North Central (Ill.) 19
Augustana (Ill.) 49	Lakeland 22
Mount Union 49	Mt. St. Joseph 6
Delaware Valley 37	Curry 22
Hobart 23	Cortland State 22
Rowan 42	Wilkes 3
Union (N.Y.) 55	Ithaca 41

SECOND ROUND

Linfield 28	Concordia-Moorhead 14
Wis.-Whitewater 34	St. John's 7
Wesley 46	Mary Hardin-Baylor 36
Bridgewater 24	Thiel 13
Capital 14	Wabash 11
Mount Union 44	Augustana 7
Delaware Valley 21	Hobart 14
Rowan 28	Union 24

QUARTERFINALS

Wis.-Whitewater 44	Linfield 41
Wesley 46	Bridgewater 7
Mount Union 34	Capital 31
Rowan 27	Delaware Valley 21

SEMIFINALS

Wis.-Whitewater 58	Wesley 6
Mount Union 19	Rowan 7

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mount Union 35	Wisconsin-Whitewater 28

NAIA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

St. Francis (Ind.) 41	Pikeville (Ky.) 7
Georgetown (Ky.) 36	Geneva (Pa.) 35
Sioux Falls (S.D.) 31	St. Xavier (Ill.) 28
Evangel (Mo.) 34	McKendree (Ill.) 31
Morningside (Iowa) 58	St. Ambrose (Iowa) 7
Carroll (Mont.) 23	Dickinson State (N.D.) 13
Tabor (Kan.) 17	Graceland (Iowa) 14
Montana Tech 24	Azusa Pacific (Calif.) 17

QUARTERFINALS

St. Francis 44	Georgetown 14
Sioux Falls 48	Tabor 13
Morningside 54	Evangel 21
Carroll 24	Montana Tech 0

SEMIFINALS

St. Francis 42	Morningside 14
Carroll 55	Sioux Falls 0

CHAMPIONSHIP

Carroll 27	St. Francis 10

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2006 NCAA DIVISION I SCHEDULES

–PROVIDED BY STATS INC.

AIR FORCE
Air Force Academy, CO

S.9	@TENNESSEE	
S.23	@WYOMING	28-29
S.30	New Mexico	42-24
O.7	Navy	24-27
O.12	Colorado State	23-41
O.21	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-29
O.28	Brigham Young	41-62
N.3	@ARMY	24-27
N.11	Notre Dame	
N.18	Utah	35-38
N.24	@UNLV	42-7
D.2	@TCU	10-48

Coach: *Fisher DeBerry* **Colors:** *Silver & Blue*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

AKRON
Akron, OH

S.2	@PENN STATE	
S.9	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S.16	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	17-31
S.23	North Texas	
S.30	@KENT STATE	35-3
O.7	@CINCINNATI	
O.21	Miami (OH)	23-51
O.28	@TOLEDO	
N.4	Bowling Green	24-14
N.9	Buffalo	13-7
N.16	@OHIO	27-3
N.24	Western Michigan	

Coach: *J.D. Brookhart* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Zips* **2005 Record:** *7-5*

ALABAMA
Tuscaloosa, AL

S.2	Hawaii	
S.9	Vanderbilt	
S.16	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.23	@ARKANSAS	24-13
S.30	@FLORIDA	31-3
O.7	Duke	
O.14	Mississippi	13-10
O.21	@TENNESSEE	6-3
O.28	Florida International	
N.4	Mississippi State	17-0
N.11	@LSU	13-16 (OT)
N.18	Auburn	18-28

Coach: *Mike Shula* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
Nickname: *Crimson Tide* **2005 Record:** *9-2*

ALABAMA A&M
Normal, AL

S.2	@TENNESSEE STATE	27-14
S.9	Grambling State	6-45
S.16	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	27-13
S.23	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	7-17
O.7	Southern University	20-7
O.14	Stillman	
O.21	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	28-13
O.28	@ALABAMA STATE*	31-28
N.4	@JACKSON STATE	52-6
N.11	Alcorn State	28-21
N.18	Prairie View A&M	31-16

**At Birmingham, AL*
Coach: *Anthony Jones* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *9-3*

ALABAMA STATE
Montgomery, AL

S.2	@TROY	
S.9	Texas Southern	27-15
S.16	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	41-10
S.23	@ALCORN STATE	38-3
S.30	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	45-35
O.7	Jackson State*	44-23
O.14	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	34-13
O.28	Alabama A&M**	28-31
N.4	@GRAMBLING STATE	27-32
N.11	Mississippi Valley State	33-38
N.23	Tuskegee	27-28 (OT)

**At Mobile, AL*
***At Birmingham, AL*
Coach: *Charles Coe III* **Colors:** *Black & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Hornets* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

ALBANY
Albany, NY

S.2	@LEHIGH	
S.9	Fordham	41-0
S.16	@DELAWARE	
S.23	Central Connecticut State	13-14
S.30	@CORNELL	
O.7	@STONY BROOK	3-7
O.14	@SACRED HEART	21-7
O.21	St. Francis (PA)	25-16
O.28	Wagner	38-10
N.4	@ROBERT MORRIS	20-17
N.11	Monmouth	13-16

Coach: *Bob Ford* **Colors:** *Purple and Gold*
Nickname: *Great Danes* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

ALCORN STATE
Alcorn State, MS

S.2	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
S.9	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	7-17
S.16	@LANGSTON	24-7
S.23	Alabama State	3-38
O.7	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	22-10
O.14	Texas Southern	29-22
O.21	Southern University	38-16
N.4	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	38-36
N.11	@ALABAMA A&M	21-28
N.18	@JACKSON STATE	31-14
D.3	@GRAMBLING STATE	19-46

Coach: *Dr. Johnny Thomas* **Colors:** *Alcorn Purple & Old Gold* **Nickname:** *Braves* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

APPALACHIAN STATE
Boone, NC

S.2	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S.9	James Madison	
S.16	Mars Hill	
S.23	@GARDNER-WEBB	
S.30	Elon	52-14
O.7	@CHATTANOOGA	35-25
O.14	Wofford	49-17
O.21	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	24-7
O.28	Furman	29-23
N.4	Citadel	45-13
N.11	@WESTERN CAROLINA	35-7

Coach: *Jerry Moore* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Mountaineers* **2005 Record:** *11-3*

ARIZONA
Tucson, AZ

S.2	Brigham Young	
S.9	@LSU	
S.16	Stephen F. Austin	
S.23	USC	21-42
S.30	Washington	14-38
O.7	@UCLA	52-14
O.14	@STANFORD	16-20
O.21	Oregon State	29-27
N.4	@WASHINGTON STATE	
N.11	California	0-28
N.18	@OREGON	21-28
N.25	Arizona State	20-23

Coach: *Mike Stoops* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Navy*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2005 Record:** *3-8*

ARIZONA STATE
Tempe, AZ

A.31	Northern Arizona	
S.9	Nevada	
S.16	@COLORADO	
S.23	@CALIFORNIA	
S.30	Oregon	17-31
O.14	@USC	28-38
O.21	Stanford	35-45
O.28	@WASHINGTON	44-20
N.4	@OREGON STATE	42-24
N.11	Washington State	27-24
N.18	UCLA	35-45
N.25	@ARIZONA	23-20

Coach: *Dirk Koetter* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Sun Devils* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

ARKANSAS
Fayetteville, AR

S.2	USC	17-70
S.9	Utah State	
S.16	@VANDERBILT	24-28
S.23	Alabama	13-24
O.7	@AUBURN	17-34
O.14	Southeast Missouri State	
O.21	Mississippi	28-17
O.28	Louisiana-Monroe*	44-15
N.4	@SOUTH CAROLINA	10-14
N.11	Tennessee	
N.18	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	44-10
N.24	LSU@	17-19

**At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Houston Nutt* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Razorbacks* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

ARKANSAS STATE
State University, AR

S.2	Army	10-38
S.9	Oklahoma State*	10-20
S.23	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
S.30	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	66-24
O.7	Louisiana-Monroe	27-31
O.14	@MEMPHIS	
O.21	North Texas	31-24
O.28	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	3-0 (OT)
N.4	@AUBURN	
N.11	Middle Tennessee State	7-45
N.18	@TROY	9-3
N.25	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	39-36

**At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Steve Roberts* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Indians* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
Pine Bluff, AR

S.2	Mississippi Valley State*	17-30
S.9	Alcorn State	17-7
S.16	@ALABAMA STATE	10-41
S.23	Southern Illinois	
S.30	Tuskegee**	9-13
O.14	Grambling State***	23-26
O.21	Alabama A&M	13-28
O.28	Jackson State	64-36
N.4	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	7-34
N.11	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	21-27
N.18	Texas Southern	40-23

** At Chicago, IL*
*** At St. Louis, MO*
****At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Maurice Forte* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Lions* **2005 Record:** *3-8*

ARMY
West Point, NY

S.2	@ARKANSAS STATE	38-10
S.9	Kent State	
S.16	@TEXAS A&M*	
S.23	@BAYLOR	10-20
S.30	Rice	
O.7	Virginia Military	
O.14	@CONNECTICUT	13-47
O.21	TCU	17-38
O.28	@TULANE	
N.3	Air Force	27-24
N.18	@NOTRE DAME	
D.2	@NAVY**	23-42

** At San Antonio, TX*
*** At Philadelphia, PA*
Coach: *Bobby Ross* **Colors:** *Black, Gold & Gray*
Nickname: *Black Knights* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

AUBURN
Auburn, AL

S.2	Washington State	
S.9	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	28-0
S.16	LSU	17-20 (OT)
S.23	Buffalo	
S.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	48-7
O.7	Arkansas	34-17
O.14	Florida	
O.21	Tulane	
O.28	@MISSISSIPPI	27-3
N.4	Arkansas State	
N.11	Georgia	31-30
N.18	@ALABAMA	28-18

Coach: *Tommy Tuberville* **Colors:** *Burnt Orange & Navy Blue* **Nickname:** *Tigers* **2005 Record:** *9-2*

AUSTIN PEAY
Clarksville, TN

S.2	Southeast Missouri State	
S.9	@CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY	24-15
S.14	@SAMFORD	
S.23	@DAYTON	0-46
S.30	Tennessee-Martin	
O.14	@MISSOURI-ROLLA	3-45
O.21	Cumberland University	24-15
O.28	Charleston Univ	19-27
N.4	North Greenville	
N.11	@MOREHEAD STATE	12-44
N.18	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	

Coach: *Carroll McCray* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Governors* **2005 Record:** *2-9*

BALL STATE
Muncie, IN

A.31	Eastern Michigan	26-25
S.9	Indiana	
S.16	@PURDUE	
S.23	North Dakota State	
S.30	Northern Illinois	31-17
O.7	@BUFFALO	
O.14	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	24-31 (OT)
O.21	Western Michigan	60-57 (OT)
O.28	@MIAMI (OH)	
N.4	@MICHIGAN	
N.14	@TOLEDO	14-34
N.24	Kent State	

Coach: *Brady Hoke* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Cardinals* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

BAYLOR
Waco, TX

S.2	TCU	
S.9	Northwestern State	
S.16	@WASHINGTON STATE	
S.23	Army	20-10
S.30	Kansas State	
O.7	@COLORADO	
O.14	@TEXAS	0-62
O.21	Kansas	
O.28	Texas A&M	13-16 (OT)
N.4	@TEXAS TECH	0-28
N.11	@OKLAHOMA STATE	44-34
N.18	Oklahoma	30-37 (OT)

Coach: *Guy Morriss* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bears* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
Daytona Beach, FL

S.2	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY*	
S.9	Savannah State	56-13
S.16	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	24-27
S.23	Norfolk State	63-61 (OT)
S.30	@MORGAN STATE	44-26
O.7	Delaware State	0-17
O.14	Winston-Salem	
O.28	North Carolina A&T	54-17
N.4	@HAMPTON	10-24
N.11	Howard	45-16
N.18	@FLORIDA A&M**	23-26 (OT)

**At Jacksonville, FL*
*** At Orlando, FL*
Coach: *Alvin Wyatt* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

BOISE STATE
Boise, ID

A.31	Sacramento State	
S.7	Oregon State	27-30
S.16	@WYOMING	
S.23	Hawaii	44-41
S.30	@UTAH	
O.7	Louisiana Tech	30-13
O.15	@NEW MEXICO STATE	56-6
O.21	@IDAHO	70-35
N.1	Fresno State	7-27
N.11	@SAN JOSE STATE	38-21
N.18	Utah State	45-21
N.25	@NEVADA	49-14

Coach: *Chris Petersen* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Broncos* **2005 Record:** *9-3*

BOSTON COLLEGE
Chestnut Hill, MA

A.31	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S.9	Clemson	16-13 (OT)
S.16	Brigham Young	20-3
S.23	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	30-10
S.30	Maine	
O.12	Virginia Tech	10-30
O.21	@FLORIDA STATE	17-28
O.28	Buffalo	
N.4	@WAKE FOREST	35-30
N.11	Duke	
N.18	Maryland	31-16
N.23	@MIAMI (FL)	

Coach: *Tom O'Brien* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2005 Record:** *8-3*

BOWLING GREEN
Bowling Green, OH

S.2	Wisconsin*	42-56
S.9	Buffalo	27-7
S.16	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	
S.23	Kent State	24-14
S.30	@OHIO	38-14
O.7	@OHIO STATE	
O.14	Eastern Michigan	
O.19	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
O.28	@TEMPLE	70-7
N.4	@AKRON	14-24
N.15	Miami (OH)	42-14
N.21	@TOLEDO	41-44 (OT)

**At Cleveland, OH*
Coach: *Gregg Brandon* **Colors:** *Brown & Orange*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

BRIGHAM YOUNG
Provo, UT

S.2	@ARIZONA	
S.9	Tulsa	
S.16	@BOSTON COLLEGE	3-20
S.23	Utah State	
S.28	@TCU	50-51 (OT)
O.7	San Diego State	10-31
O.21	UNLV	55-14
O.28	@AIR FORCE	62-41
N.4	@COLORADO STATE	24-14
N.9	Wyoming	35-21
N.18	New Mexico	27-24
N.25	@UTAH	34-41 (OT)

Coach: *Bronco Mendenhall* **Colors:** *Blue & White* **Nickname:** *Cougars* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

BROWN
Providence, RI

S.16	Georgetown	34-3
S.23	Harvard	35-38 (OT)
S.30	@RHODE ISLAND	45-35
O.7	@HOLY CROSS	
O.14	@PRINCETON	31-28
O.21	Cornell	38-24
O.28	@PENNSYLVANIA	34-20
N.4	Yale	38-21
N.11	@DARTMOUTH	24-14
N.18	Columbia	52-21

Coach: *Phil Estes* **Colors:** *Brown, Red & White*
Nickname: *Bears* **2005 Record:** *9-1*

BUCKNELL
Lewisburg, PA

S.2	Duquesne	
S.9	Lafayette	20-33
S.16	Cornell	7-24
S.23	@RICHMOND	
S.30	@MARIST	27-7
O.7	Pennsylvania	7-53
O.14	@GEORGETOWN	16-19 (OT)
O.21	@LEHIGH	10-42
O.28	Fordham	21-28
N.4	@HOLY CROSS	33-51
N.18	Colgate	10-16

Coach: *Tim Landis* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Bison* **2005 Record:** *1-10*

BUFFALO
Buffalo, NY

A.31	Temple	
S.9	@BOWLING GREEN	7-27
S.16	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S.23	@AUBURN	
O.7	Ball State	
O.14	Miami (OH)	13-54
O.21	@OHIO	20-34
O.28	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
N.4	Kent State	10-6
N.9	@AKRON	7-13
N.18	@WISCONSIN	
N.24	Central Michigan	

Coach: *Turner Gill* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulls* **2005 Record:** *1-10*

BUTLER
Indianapolis, IN

S.2	@ALBION	23-28
S.9	Hanover	
S.16	Robert Morris	13-49

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

S.23 Jacksonville 21-55
S.30 Dayton 7-41
0.7 @SAN DIEGO 7-49
0.14 Drake 10-56
0.21 Valparaiso 21-34
0.28 @MISSOURI-ROLLA 28-45
N.4 Morehead State 10-58
N.11 @DAVIDSON
Coach: *Jeff Voris* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *0-11*

CAL POLY
San Luis Obispo, CA
S.2 Fort Lewis
S.9 @WEBER STATE
S.16 @SACRAMENTO STATE 37-13
S.23 @SAN JOSE STATE
S.30 Southern Utah 20-10
0.7 California-Davis 13-20
0.21 South Dakota State 24-16
0.28 @SAN DIEGO STATE
N.4 @MONTANA 35-21
N.11 @NORTH DAKOTA STATE 37-6
N.18 Savannah State
Coach: *Rich Ellerson* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Mustangs* **2005 Record:** *9-4*

CALIFORNIA
Berkeley, CA
S.2 @TENNESSEE
S.9 Minnesota
S.16 Portland State
S.23 Arizona State
S.30 @OREGON STATE 20-23
0.7 Oregon 20-27 (OT)
0.14 @WASHINGTON STATE 42-38
0.21 Washington 56-17
N.4 UCLA 40-47
N.11 @ARIZONA 28-0
N.18 @USC 10-35
D.2 Stanford 27-3
Coach: *Jeff Tedford* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Bears* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

CALIFORNIA-DAVIS
Davis, CA
S.2 @NORTHERN COLORADO 24-14
S.9 @TCU
S.16 @MONTANA STATE
S.23 @YOUNGSTOWN STATE
0.7 @CAL POLY 20-13
0.14 Central Arkansas
0.21 Southern Utah 33-21
0.28 @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE 14-16
N.4 North Dakota State 20-14
N.18 Sacramento State 37-7
N.25 San Diego
Coach: *Bob Biggs* **Colors:** *Yale Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Aggies* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
New Britain, CT
S.2 Marist 22-31
S.9 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN
S.15 @SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE
S.23 @ALBANY 14-13
S.30 @ST. PETER'S 56-20
0.7 St. Francis (PA) 28-31
0.14 @ROBERT MORRIS 21-14
0.21 Wagner 38-34
0.28 @MONMOUTH 15-13
N.4 @SACRED HEART 24-17
N.11 Stony Brook 21-23
Coach: *Jeff McInerney* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Devils* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Mount Pleasant, MI
A.31 Boston College
S.9 @MICHIGAN
S.16 Akron 31-17
S.23 @EASTERN MICHIGAN 20-23 (OT)
S.30 @KENTUCKY
0.7 @TOLEDO 21-17
0.14 Ball State 31-24 (OT)
0.19 Bowling Green
N.4 @TEMPLE
N.10 Western Michigan 24-31
N.17 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS 28-31
N.24 @BUFFALO
Coach: *Brian Kelly* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Chippewas* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston, SC
S.2 @PRESBYTERIAN 0-42
S.9 @CITADEL 14-28
S.16 Wingate
S.30 North Greenville 35-28
0.7 @SAVANNAH STATE 48-28
0.14 Edward Waters
0.21 Virginia Military 12-34
0.28 Georgetown
N.4 Gardner-Webb 38-7
N.11 @LIBERTY 31-30
N.18 @COASTAL CAROLINA 34-27 (OT)
Coach: *Jay Mills* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Buccaneers* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga, TN
A.31 @TENNESSEE TECH 30-23 (OT)
S.9 @MEMPHIS 14-59
S.16 @WESTERN KENTUCKY
S.23 Georgia Southern 10-48
S.30 @CITADEL 31-21
0.7 Appalachian State 25-35
0.14 @WESTERN CAROLINA 20-38
0.21 @FURMAN 35-56
0.28 Elon 10-7
N.4 Jacksonville State 21-18
N.11 @WOFFORD 25-13
Coach: *Rodney Allison* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Mocs* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

CINCINNATI
Cincinnati, OH
S.2 Eastern Kentucky
S.8 Pittsburgh 20-38
S.16 @OHIO STATE
S.23 @VIRGINIA TECH
S.30 Miami (OH) 16-44
0.7 Akron
0.14 @LOUISVILLE 22-46
0.21 South Florida 16-31
0.28 Syracuse 22-16
N.11 @WEST VIRGINIA 0-38
N.18 Rutgers 9-44
N.25 @CONNECTICUT 28-17
Coach: *Mark Dantonio* **Colors:** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Bearcats* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

CITADEL
Charleston, SC
S.2 @TEXAS A&M
S.9 Charleston Southern 28-14
S.23 @PITTSBURGH
S.30 Chattanooga 21-31
0.7 @WOFFORD 10-28
0.14 @FURMAN 31-39 (OT)
0.21 Western Carolina 17-7
0.28 Georgia Southern 14-49
N.4 @APPALACHIAN STATE 13-45
N.11 Virginia Military 22-14
N.18 @ELON 21-0
Coach: *Kevin Higgins* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

CLEMSON
Clemson, SC
S.2 Florida Atlantic
S.9 @BOSTON COLLEGE 13-16 (OT)
S.16 @FLORIDA STATE 35-14
S.23 North Carolina
S.30 Louisiana Tech
0.7 @WAKE FOREST 27-31
0.12 Temple* 37-7
0.21 Georgia Tech 9-10
0.26 @VIRGINIA TECH
N.4 Maryland 28-24
N.11 North Carolina State 31-10
N.25 South Carolina 13-9
*At Charlotte, NC
Coach: *Tommy Bowden* **Colors:** *Purple & Orange* **Nickname:** *Tigers* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

COASTAL CAROLINA
Conway, SC
S.2 Elon 17-10
S.9 @WOFFORD
S.16 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN
S.23 South Carolina State 24-23
S.30 @WINSTON-SALEM
0.7 Furman
0.14 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 38-14
0.28 Liberty 27-21 (OT)
N.4 Savannah State 42-16
N.11 @GARDNER-WEBB 34-31 (OT)
N.18 Charleston Southern 27-34 (OT)
Coach: *David Bennett* **Colors:** *Coastal Teal, Bronze*
Nickname: *Chanticleers* **2005 Record:** *9-2*

COLGATE
Hamilton, NY
S.2 @MASSACHUSETTS 17-14
S.16 Dartmouth 21-26
S.23 Monmouth
S.30 Georgetown 34-7
0.7 Princeton 16-10
0.14 @CORNELL 34-20
0.21 @FORDHAM 23-0
0.28 Lafayette 18-15
N.4 @LEHIGH 34-50
N.11 Holy Cross 27-14
N.18 @BUCKNELL 16-10
Coach: *Dick Biddle* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Raiders* **2005 Record:** *8-4*

COLORADO
Boulder, CO
S.2 Montana State
S.9 @COLORADO STATE* 31-28
S.16 Arizona State
S.23 @GEORGIA
S.30 @MISSOURI 41-12
0.7 Baylor
0.14 Texas Tech
0.21 @OKLAHOMA
0.28 @KANSAS 44-13
N.4 Kansas State 23-20
N.11 Iowa State 16-30
N.24 @NEBRASKA 3-30
*At Denver, CO
Coach: *Dan Hawkins* **Colors:** *Silver, Gold & Black* **Nickname:** *Buffaloes* **2005 Record:** *7-5*

COLORADO STATE
Fort Collins, CO
S.2 Weber State
S.9 Colorado* 28-31
S.16 @NEVADA 42-21
S.30 @FRESNO STATE
0.7 UNLV 31-27
0.12 @AIR FORCE 41-23
0.21 @WYOMING 39-31
0.28 New Mexico 35-25
N.4 Brigham Young 14-24
N.11 @UTAH 21-17
N.25 TCU 6-33
D.2 @SAN DIEGO STATE 10-30
*At Denver, CO
Coach: *Sonny Lubick* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Rams* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

COLUMBIA
New York, NY
S.16 Fordham 23-17
S.23 Georgetown
S.30 Princeton 3-43
0.7 Iona
0.14 @PENNSYLVANIA 16-44
0.21 Dartmouth 6-17
0.28 @YALE 3-37
N.4 @HARVARD 7-55
N.11 Cornell 7-45
N.18 @BROWN 21-52
Coach: *Norries Wilson* **Colors:** *Columbia Blue & White* **Nickname:** *Lions* **2005 Record:** *2-8*

CONNECTICUT
Storrs, CT
A.31 Rhode Island
S.16 Wake Forest
S.23 @INDIANA
S.30 Navy
0.7 @SOUTH FLORIDA 15-10
0.14 Army 47-13
0.20 West Virginia 13-45
0.28 @RUTGERS 24-26
N.11 Pittsburgh 0-24
N.18 @SYRACUSE 26-7
N.25 Cincinnati 17-28
D.2 @LOUISVILLE 20-30
Coach: *Randy Edsall* **Colors:** *National Flag Blue & White* **Nickname:** *Huskies* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

CORNELL
Ithaca, NY
S.16 @BUCKNELL 24-7
S.23 Yale 17-37
S.30 Albany
0.7 @HARVARD 27-13
0.14 Colgate 20-34
0.21 @BROWN 24-38
0.28 Princeton 17-20 (OT)
N.4 Dartmouth 21-10
N.11 @COLUMBIA 45-7
N.18 Pennsylvania 16-7
Coach: *Jim Knowles* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Big Red* **2005 Record:** *6-4*

DARTMOUTH
Hanover, NH
S.16 @COLGATE 26-21
S.23 New Hampshire 20-49
S.30 @PENNSYLVANIA 9-26
0.7 Yale 0-13
0.14 Holy Cross 16-28
0.21 @COLUMBIA 17-6
0.28 Harvard 14-42
N.4 @CORNELL 10-21
N.11 Brown 14-24
N.18 @PRINCETON 0-30
Coach: *Buddy Teevens* **Colors:** *Dartmouth Green & White* **Nickname:** *Big Green* **2005 Record:** *2-8*

DAVIDSON
Davidson, NC
S.2 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 0-33
S.9 Wingate
S.16 @LENOIR-RHYNE 9-16
S.30 San Diego
0.7 Jacksonville 13-21
0.14 @MOREHEAD STATE 13-31
0.21 Dayton 15-45
0.28 @VALPARAISO 48-17
N.4 @DRAKE 17-58
N.11 Butler
Coach: *Tripp Merritt* **Colors:** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2005 Record:** *4-6*

DAYTON
Dayton, OH
S.2 Robert Morris
S.9 @WITTENBERG 41-23
S.23 Austin Peay 46-0
S.30 @BUTLER 41-7
0.7 Morehead State 42-7
0.14 @JACKSONVILLE 49-17
0.21 @DAVIDSON 45-15
0.28 Drake 25-17
N.4 Valparaiso 52-7
N.11 @SAN DIEGO 24-48
Coach: *Mike Kelly* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Flyers* **2005 Record:** *9-1*

DELAWARE
Newark, DE
S.9 West Chester 42-21
S.16 Albany
S.23 @RHODE ISLAND
S.30 New Hampshire
0.7 @NORTHEASTERN
0.14 Hofstra 6-10
0.21 @RICHMOND 10-20
0.28 Towson 31-35
N.4 @JAMES MADISON 34-28
N.11 William & Mary 22-21
N.18 Villanova 38-13
Coach: *K.C. Keeler* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Blue Hens* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

DELAWARE STATE
Dover, DE
S.2 Florida A&M* 21-17
S.9 St. Francis (PA)
S.16 @NORTHWESTERN STATE
S.30 Hampton 8-26
0.7 @BETHUNE-COOKMAN 17-0
0.14 North Carolina A&T 23-13
0.21 @MORGAN STATE 41-14
0.28 South Carolina State 3-24
N.4 Concord
N.11 @NORFOLK STATE 38-17
N.18 @HOWARD 23-7
*At Detroit, MI
Coach: *Al Lavan* **Colors:** *Columbia Blue & Red*
Nickname: *Hornets* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

DRAKE
Des Moines, IA
A.31 Northern Iowa 17-52
S.9 Upper Iowa
S.16 Wisconsin-Platteville 37-14
S.23 @VALPARAISO 49-24
S.30 Morehead State
0.7 Waldorf 43-0
0.14 @BUTLER 56-10
0.21 San Diego 26-31
0.28 @DAYTON 17-25
N.4 Davidson 58-17
N.11 @JACKSONVILLE
Coach: *Rob Ash* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *6-4*

DUKE
Durham, NC
S.2 Richmond
S.9 @WAKE FOREST 6-44
S.16 @VIRGINIA TECH 0-45
S.30 Virginia 7-38
0.7 @ALABAMA
0.14 Florida State 24-55
0.21 Miami (FL) 7-52
0.28 Vanderbilt
N.4 Navy 21-28
N.11 @BOSTON COLLEGE
N.18 @GEORGIA TECH 10-35
N.25 North Carolina 21-24
Coach: *Ted Roof* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Devils* **2005 Record:** *1-10*

DUQUESNE
Pittsburgh, PA
S.2 @BUCKNELL
S.9 @ROBERT MORRIS 23-12
S.16 St. Francis (PA) 44-17
S.23 Sacred Heart
S.30 West Liberty State
0.7 @FORDHAM 30-13
0.14 @ST. PETER'S 24-0
0.21 Marist 22-14
0.28 Iona 31-17
N.4 @LA SALLE 56-14
Coach: *Jerry Schmitt* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Dukes* **2005 Record:** *7-3*

EAST CAROLINA
Greenville, NC
S.2 @NAVY
S.9 @UAB 31-23
S.16 Memphis 24-27
S.23 West Virginia 15-20
0.7 Virginia
0.14 Tulsa 13-45
0.21 Southern Methodist 24-17
0.28 @SOUTHERN MISS 7-33
N.4 @UCF 20-30
N.11 Marshall 34-29
N.18 @RICE 41-28
N.25 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Coach: *Skip Holtz* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Pirates* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

EASTERN ILLINOIS
Charleston, IL
S.2 @ILLINOIS
S.9 Indiana State 24-13
S.16 @ILLINOIS STATE 6-27
S.23 @SAMFORD 43-14
S.30 @HAWAII
0.7 Southeast Missouri State 48-24
0.14 @EASTERN KENTUCKY 53-22
0.21 Murray State 35-28
0.28 @TENNESSEE-MARTIN 26-7
N.4 Tennessee State 27-3
N.11 @TENNESSEE TECH 31-20
N.18 Jacksonville State 10-6
Coach: *Bob Spoo* **Colors:** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Panthers* **2005 Record:** *9-3*

EASTERN KENTUCKY
Richmond, KY
S.2 @CINCINNATI
S.9 Western Kentucky 21-23
S.16 @WESTERN CAROLINA
S.21 @TENNESSEE TECH 52-3
S.30 Jacksonville State 31-14
0.7 @SAMFORD 38-6
0.14 Eastern Illinois 22-53
0.21 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 33-32
N.4 Murray State 43-7
N.11 @TENNESSEE-MARTIN 31-17
N.18 Tennessee State 49-0
Coach: *Danny Hope* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Colonels* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

EASTERN MICHIGAN
Ypsilanti, MI
A.31 @BALL STATE 25-26
S.9 @MICHIGAN STATE
S.16 @NORTHWESTERN
S.23 Central Michigan 23-20 (OT)
S.30 @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE 31-10
0.14 @BOWLING GREEN
0.21 Toledo 3-30
0.28 @WESTERN MICHIGAN 36-44
N.4 Ohio
N.11 Navy
N.18 @KENT STATE 27-20
N.24 Northern Illinois 8-24
Coach: *Jeff Genyk* **Colors:** *Dark Green & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

EASTERN WASHINGTON
Cheney, WA
A.31 @OREGON STATE
S.9 @WEST VIRGINIA
S.16 Central Washington
S.23 @MONTANA STATE 35-14
S.30 Sacramento State 45-17
0.7 Montana 34-20
0.14 @NORTHERN COLORADO
0.21 @PORTLAND STATE 42-24
0.28 Northern Arizona 42-14
N.4 @WEBER STATE 23-28
N.11 Idaho State 30-34
Coach: *Paul Wulff* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Eagles 2005* **Record:** *7-5*

ELON
Elon College, NC
S.2 @COASTAL CAROLINA 10-17
S.9 Towson
S.16 Presbyterian 34-19
S.30 @APPALACHIAN STATE 14-52
0.7 Western Carolina 26-31
0.14 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 7-49
0.21 Wofford 9-14
0.28 @CHATTANOOGA 7-10
N.4 Furman 6-45
N.11 @NORTH CAROLINA A&T 12-9
N.18 Citadel 0-21
Coach: *Pete Lembo* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Phoenix* **2005 Record:** *3-8*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

FLORIDA
Gainesville, FL

S.2	Southern Miss	
S.9	UCF	
S.16	@TENNESSEE	16-7
S.23	Kentucky	49-28
S.30	Alabama	3-31
O.7	LSU	17-21
O.14	@AUBURN	
O.28	Georgia*	14-10
N.4	@VANDERBILT	49-42 (OT)
N.11	South Carolina	22-30
N.18	Western Carolina	
N.25	@FLORIDA STATE	34-7

**At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Urban Meyer* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Gators* ***2005 Record:*** *8-3*

FLORIDA A&M
Tallahassee, FL

S.2	@DELAWARE STATE*	17-21
S.9	@MIAMI (FL)	
S.16	@HOWARD	33-20
S.23	Winston-Salem	
S.30	@TENNESSEE STATE**	12-7
O.14	South Carolina State	3-49
O.21	@NORFOLK STATE	31-17
O.28	Morgan State	27-16
N.4	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	24-14
N.11	Hampton	14-34
N.18	Bethune-Cookman***	26-23 (OT)

** At Detroit, MI*
***At Atlanta, GA*
**** At Orlando, FL*
Coach: *Rubin Carter* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Green*
Nickname: *Rattlers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Boca Raton, FL

S.2	@CLEMSON	
S.9	@KANSAS STATE	
S.16	@OKLAHOMA STATE	3-23
S.23	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.30	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	21-28
O.18	Louisiana-Lafayette	28-10
O.28	Arkansas State	0-3 (OT)
N.4	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	14-35
N.11	Troy	14-28
N.18	@NORTH TEXAS	26-23
N.25	Florida International*	6-52

** At Miami, FL*
Coach: *Howard Schnellenberger* ***Colors:*** *Atlantic Blue and Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Owls*
2005 Record: *2-9*

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Miami, FL

A.31	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	35-31
S.9	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.16	Bowling Green	
S.23	@MARYLAND	
S.30	Arkansas State	24-66
O.7	@NORTH TEXAS	10-13
O.14	@MIAMI (FL)	
O.28	@ALABAMA	
N.4	Louisiana-Monroe	31-29
N.18	Louisiana-Lafayette	7-28
N.25	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	52-6
D.2	Troy	13-18

**At Miami, FL*
Coach: *Don Strock* ***Colors:*** *Blue and Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Panthers* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

FLORIDA STATE
Tallahassee, FL

S.4	@MIAMI (FL)	10-7
S.9	Troy	
S.16	Clemson	14-35
S.23	Rice	
O.5	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	15-20
O.14	@DUKE	55-24
O.21	Boston College	28-17
O.28	@MARYLAND	35-27
N.4	Virginia	21-26
N.11	Wake Forest	41-24
N.18	Western Michigan	
N.25	Florida	7-34

Coach: *Bobby Bowden* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Gold*
Nickname: *Seminoles* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

FORDHAM
Bronx, NY

S.2	Monmouth	
S.9	@ALBANY	0-41
S.16	@COLUMBIA	17-23
S.30	@HOLY CROSS	24-20
O.7	Duquesne	13-30
O.14	Marist	
O.21	Colgate	0-23
O.28	@BUCKNELL	28-21
N.4	Lafayette	10-27
N.11	@LEHIGH	3-40
N.18	Georgetown	21-24

Coach: *Tom Masella* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Rams* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

FRESNO STATE
Fresno, CA

S.1	Nevada	35-38
S.9	Oregon	34-37
S.16	@WASHINGTON	
S.30	Colorado State	
O.7	@UTAH STATE	53-21
O.14	Hawaii	27-13
O.21	@LSU	
N.1	@BOISE STATE	27-7
N.11	New Mexico State	37-7
N.18	Idaho	40-10
N.24	@LOUISIANA TECH	28-40
D.2	@SAN JOSE STATE	45-7

Coach: *Pat Hill* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

FURMAN
Greenville, SC

S.2	Jacksonville State	37-35
S.9	West Georgia	
S.16	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S.23	Western Carolina	21-41
S.30	@WOFFORD	34-21
O.7	@COASTAL CAROLINA	
O.14	Citadel	39-31 (OT)
O.21	Chattanooga	56-35
O.28	@APPALACHIAN STATE	23-29
N.4	@ELON	45-6
N.11	Georgia Southern	24-27

Coach: *Bobby Lamb* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Paladins* ***2005 Record:*** *11-3*

GARDNER-WEBB
Boiling Springs, NC

S.2	@JACKSONVILLE	
S.9	Tennessee Tech	
S.16	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	28-31
S.23	Appalachian State	
S.30	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
O.14	Glenville State	
O.21	@LIBERTY	21-16
O.28	Virginia Military	55-52 (OT)
N.4	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	7-38
N.11	Coastal Carolina	31-34 (OT)
N.18	Wofford	42-56

Coach: *Steve Patton* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet, White & Black*
Nickname: *Runnin' Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

GEORGETOWN
Washington, DC

S.2	Holy Cross	6-48
S.9	Stony Brook	10-7
S.16	@BROWN	3-34
S.23	@COLUMBIA	
S.30	@COLGATE	7-34
O.7	Lehigh	14-46
O.14	Bucknell	19-16 (OT)
O.28	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	
N.4	Marist	
N.11	@LAFAYETTE	7-12
N.18	@FORDHAM	24-21

Coach: *Kevin Kelly* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Hoyas* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

GEORGIA
Athens, GA

S.2	Western Kentucky	
S.9	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-15
S.16	UAB	
S.23	Colorado	
S.30	@MISSISSIPPI	
O.7	Tennessee	27-14
O.14	Vanderbilt	34-17
O.21	Mississippi State	23-10
O.28	@FLORIDA*	10-14
N.4	@KENTUCKY	45-13
N.11	@AUBURN	30-31
N.25	Georgia Tech	14-7

**At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Mark Richt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *10-2*

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Statesboro, GA

S.9	Central Connecticut State	
S.16	Coastal Carolina	
S.23	@CHATTANOOGA	48-10
S.30	@WESTERN CAROLINA	45-7
O.7	North Dakota State	
O.14	Elon	49-7
O.21	Appalachian State	7-24
O.28	@CITADEL	49-14
N.4	Wofford	17-21
N.11	@FURMAN	27-24
N.18	Central Arkansas	

Coach: *Brian VanGorder* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

GEORGIA TECH
Atlanta, GA

S.2	Notre Dame	
S.9	Samford	
S.16	Troy	
S.21	Virginia	17-27
S.30	@VIRGINIA TECH	7-51
O.7	Maryland	
O.21	@CLEMSON	10-9
O.28	Miami (FL)	14-10
N.4	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	14-17
N.11	@NORTH CAROLINA	27-21
N.18	Duke	35-10
N.25	@GEORGIA	7-14

Coach: *Chan Gailey* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & White*
Nickname: *Yellow Jackets* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

GRAMBLING STATE
Grambling, LA

S.2	Hampton*	
S.9	@ALABAMA A&M	45-6
S.16	@HOUSTON	
S.30	Prairie View A&M**	50-7
O.7	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	37-22
O.14	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF***	26-23
O.21	Jackson State	52-21
O.28	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	58-21
N.4	Alabama State	32-27
N.25	Southern University****	50-35
D.3	Alcorn State	46-19

**At Birmingham, AL*
***At Dallas, TX*
****At Little Rock, AR*
***** At New Orleans, LA*
Coach: *Melvin Spears* ***Colors:*** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *11-1*

HAMPTON
Hampton, VA

S.2	@GRAMBLING STATE*	
S.9	Howard	22-12
S.16	North Carolina A&T	31-14
S.23	Morgan State**	44-14
S.30	@DELAWARE STATE	26-8
O.7	@CENTRAL STATE***	
O.14	Norfolk State	55-14
O.21	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	14-10
O.28	Winston-Salem	
N.4	Bethune-Cookman	24-10
N.11	@FLORIDA A&M	34-14

**At Birmingham, AL*
***At East Rutherford, NY*
****At Indianapolis, IN*
Coach: *Joe Taylor* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Pirates* ***2005 Record:*** *11-1*

HARVARD
Boston, MA

S.16	Holy Cross	31-21
S.23	@BROWN	38-35 (OT)
S.30	@LEHIGH	24-49
O.7	Cornell	13-27
O.14	Lafayette	24-17
O.21	@PRINCETON	24-27
O.28	@DARTMOUTH	42-14
N.4	Columbia	55-7
N.11	@PENNSYLVANIA	29-3
N.18	Yale	30-24 (OT)

Coach: *Tim Murphy* ***Colors:*** *Crimson*
Nickname: *Crimson* ***2005 Record:*** *7-3*

HAWAII
Honolulu, HI

S.2	@ALABAMA	
S.16	UNLV	
S.23	@BOISE STATE	41-44
S.30	Eastern Illinois	
O.7	Nevada	28-38
O.14	@FRESNO STATE	13-27
O.21	@NEW MEXICO STATE	49-28
O.28	Idaho	24-0
N.4	@UTAH STATE	50-23
N.11	Louisiana Tech	14-46
N.18	San Jose State	45-38
N.25	Purdue	
D.2	Oregon State	

Coach: *June Jones* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Warriors* ***2005 Record:*** *5-7*

HOFSTRA
Hempstead, NY

A.31	@STONY BROOK	55-0
S.9	@MARSHALL	
S.23	Towson	
S.30	@WILLIAM & MARY	
O.7	Villanova	
O.14	@DELAWARE	10-6
O.21	@MAINE	44-0
O.28	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	26-29
N.4	Rhode Island	38-24
N.11	Northeastern	20-17
N.18	@MASSACHUSETTS	21-10

Coach: *Dave Cohen* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White, & Gold*
Nickname: *Pride* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

HOLY CROSS
Worcester, MA

S.2	@GEORGETOWN	48-6
S.9	Northeastern	
S.16	@HARVARD	21-31
S.23	@MARIST	
S.30	Fordham	20-24
O.7	Brown	
O.14	@DARTMOUTH	28-16
O.21	@LAFAYETTE	21-41
O.28	Lehigh	13-10
N.4	Bucknell	51-33
N.11	@COLGATE	14-27

Coach: *Tom Gilmore* ***Colors:*** *Royal Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Crusaders* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

HOUSTON
Houston, TX

S.2	@RICE	35-18
S.9	Tulane	35-14
S.16	Grambling State	
S.23	Oklahoma State	
S.30	@MIAMI (FL)	
O.7	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O.14	@SOUTHERN MISS	27-24
O.21	UTEP	41-44 (OT)
O.28	UCF	29-31
N.4	Tulsa	30-23
N.11	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	24-29
N.18	@MEMPHIS	20-35

Coach: *Art Briles* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White*
Nickname: *Cougars* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

HOWARD
Washington, DC

S.9	@HAMPTON	12-22
S.16	Florida A&M	20-33
S.23	@RUTGERS	
S.30	Savannah State	39-21
O.7	@WINSTON-SALEM	20-6
O.14	Morgan State	0-7
O.21	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	16-0
O.28	Norfolk State	7-26
N.4	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	9-23
N.11	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	16-45
N.18	Delaware State	7-23

Coach: *Rayford T. Petty* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bison* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

IDAHO
Moscow, ID

S.2	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S.9	@WASHINGTON STATE	26-38
S.16	Idaho State	
S.23	@OREGON STATE	
S.30	@UTAH STATE	27-13
O.7	New Mexico State	38-37 (OT)
O.14	@LOUISIANA TECH	38-41
O.21	Boise State	35-70
O.28	@HAWAII	0-24
N.4	Nevada	14-62
N.18	@FRESNO STATE	10-40
N.25	San Jose State	18-26

Coach: *Dennis Erickson* ***Colors:*** *Silver & Gold*
Nickname: *Vandals* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

IDAHO STATE
Pocatello, ID

S.2	@UNLV	
S.9	Fort Lewis	
S.16	@IDAHO	
S.23	Northern Arizona	28-42
O.7	@NORTHERN COLORADO	
O.14	@PORTLAND STATE	36-34
O.21	Montana State	28-30
O.28	@MONTANA	10-32
N.4	Sacramento State	27-17
N.11	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	34-30
N.18	Weber State	21-30

Coach: *Larry Lewis* ***Colors:*** *Black & Orange*
Nickname: *Bengals* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

ILLINOIS
Champaign, IL

S.2	Eastern Illinois	
S.9	@RUTGERS	33-30 (OT)
S.16	Syracuse	
S.23	Iowa	7-35
S.30	@MICHIGAN STATE	14-61
O.7	Indiana	13-36
O.14	Ohio	
O.21	@PENN STATE	10-63
O.28	@WISCONSIN	24-41
N.4	Ohio State	2-40
N.11	Purdue	3-37
N.18	@NORTHWESTERN	21-38

Coach: *Ron Zook* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Fighting Illi* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

ILLINOIS STATE
Normal, IL

S.2	@KANSAS STATE	
S.9	Central Arkansas	
S.16	Eastern Illinois	27-6
S.23	@MURRAY STATE	42-0
O.7	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	34-37 (OT)
O.14	Southern Illinois	61-35
O.21	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	17-31
O.28	Youngstown State	17-20
N.4	Missouri State	48-23
N.11	@INDIANA STATE	70-28
N.18	@NORTHERN IOWA	38-3

Coach: *Denver Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Redbirds* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

INDIANA
Bloomington, IN

S.2	Western Michigan	
S.9	@BALL STATE	
S.16	Southern Illinois	
S.23	Connecticut	
S.30	Wisconsin	24-41
O.7	@ILLINOIS	36-13
O.14	Iowa	21-38
O.21	@OHIO STATE	10-41
O.28	Michigan State	15-46
N.4	@MINNESOTA	21-42
N.11	Michigan	14-41
N.18	@PURDUE	14-41

Coach: *Terry Hoeppner* ***Colors:*** *Cream & Crimson*
Nickname: *Hoosiers* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

INDIANA STATE
Terre Haute, IN

S.2	@PURDUE	
S.9	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	13-24
S.16	Murray State	15-27
S.23	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S.30	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	20-42
O.7	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	0-45
O.14	Northern Iowa	10-31
O.21	Missouri State	27-31
O.28	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	28-38
N.4	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	35-63
N.11	Illinois State	28-70

Coach: *Lou West* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Sycamores* ***2005 Record:*** *0-11*

IONA
New Rochelle, NY

S.2	Montclair State	21-14 (OT)
S.9	@WAGNER	0-14
S.16	@SACRED HEART	14-38
S.23	Western Connecticut State	
S.30	Stonehill	16-7
O.7	@COLUMBIA	
O.21	La Salle	32-39 (OT)
O.28	@DUQUESNE	17-31
N.4	St. Peter's	27-26
N.11	@MARIST	27-28

Coach: *Fred Mariani* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Gaels* ***2005 Record:*** *3-7*

IOWA
Iowa City, IA

S.2	Montana	
S.9	@SYRACUSE	
S.16	Iowa State	3-23
S.23	@ILLINOIS	35-7
S.30	Ohio State	6-31
O.7	Purdue	34-17
O.14	@INDIANA	38-21
O.21	@MICHIGAN	20-23 (OT)
O.28	Northern Illinois	
N.4	Northwestern	27-28
N.11	Wisconsin	20-10
N.18	@MINNESOTA	52-28

Coach: *Kirk Ferentz* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Hawkeyes* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

IOWA STATE
Ames, IA

A.31	Toledo	
S.9	UNLV	
S.16	@IOWA	23-3
S.23	@TEXAS	
S.30	Northern Iowa	
O.7	Nebraska	20-27 (OT)
O.14	@OKLAHOMA	
O.21	Texas Tech	
O.28	@KANSAS STATE	45-17
N.4	Kansas	21-24 (OT)
N.11	@COLORADO	30-16
N.18	Missouri	24-27 (OT)

Coach: *Dan McCarney* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold*
Nickname: *Cyclones* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

JACKSON STATE
Jackson, MS

S.2	Paul Quinn	
S.16	Tennessee State*	14-20 (OT)
S.23	Mississippi Valley State	33-14
S.30	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	24-21
0.7	@ALABAMA STATE**	23-44
0.14	Southern University	14-20
0.21	@GRAMBLING STATE	21-52
0.28	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	36-64
N.4	Alabama A&M	6-52
N.11	Prairie View A&M	9-27
N.18	Alcorn State	14-31

*At Memphis, TN
**At Mobile, AL

Coach: *Rick Comegy* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

JACKSONVILLE
Jacksanville, FL

S.2	Gardner-Webb	
S.16	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
S.23	@BUTLER	SS-21
S.30	@VALPARAISO	
0.7	@DAVIDSON	21-13
0.14	Dayton	17-49
0.21	@MOREHEAD STATE	12-31
0.28	@NORTH GREENVILLE	52-13
N.4	San Diego	
N.11	Drake	

Coach: *Steve Gilbert* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Dolphins* ***2005 Record:*** *4-4*

JACKSONVILLE STATE
Jacksonville, AL

S.2	@FURMAN	35-37
S.16	Southeast Missouri State	24-10
S.23	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	37-17
S.30	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	14-31
0.5	Murray State	28-23
0.14	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
0.21	Tennessee State	33-3
0.26	@TENNESSEE TECH	43-17
N.4	@CHATTANOOGA	18-21
N.11	Samford	26-20
N.18	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	6-10

Coach: *Jack Crowe* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

JAMES MADISDN
Harrisonburg, VA

S.2	Bloomsburg	
S.9	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
S.23	Northeastern	
S.30	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
0.7	Rhode Island	
0.14	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
0.21	William & Mary	30-29
0.28	@RICHMOND	15-18
N.4	Delaware	28-34
N.11	@VILLANOVA	28-13
N.18	@TOWSON	SS-14

Coach: *Mickey Matthews* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gald*
Nickname: *Dukes* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

KANSAS
Lawrence, KS

S.2	Northwestern State	
S.9	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.15	@TOLEDO	
S.23	South Florida	
S.30	@NEBRASKA	40-15
0.7	Texas A&M	
0.14	Oklahoma State	
0.21	@BAYLOR	
0.28	Colorado	13-44
N.4	@IOWA STATE	24-21 (OT)
N.18	Kansas State	3-12
N.25	@MISSOURI	13-3

Coach: *Mark Mangino* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Blue*
Nickname: *Jayhawks* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

KANSAS STATE
Manhattan, KS

S.2	Illinois State	
S.9	Florida Atlantic	
S.16	Marshall	21-19
S.23	Louisville	
S.30	@BAYLOR	
0.7	Oklahoma State	
0.14	Nebraska	25-27
0.21	@MISSOURI	36-28
0.28	Iowa State	17-45
N.4	@COLORADO	20-23
N.11	Texas	
N.18	@KANSAS	12-3

Coach: *Ron Prince* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

KENT STATE
Kent, OH

A.31	Minnesota	
S.9	@ARMY	
S.16	@MIAMI (OH)	10-27
S.23	@BOWLING GREEN	14-24
S.30	Akron	3-35
0.7	@TEMPLE	
0.14	Toledo	
0.28	Ohio	32-35
N.4	@BUFFALO	6-10
N.11	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N.18	Eastern Michigan	20-27
N.24	@BALL STATE	

Coach: *Doug Martin* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Flashes* ***2005 Record:*** *1-10*

KENTUCKY
Lexington, KY

S.2	@LOUISVILLE	24-31
S.9	Texas State	
S.16	Mississippi	7-13
S.23	@FLORIDA	28-49
S.30	Central Michigan	
0.7	South Carolina	16-44
0.14	@LSU	
0.28	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	13-7
N.4	Georgia	13-45
N.11	Vanderbilt	48-43
N.18	Louisiana-Monroe	
N.25	@TENNESSEE	8-27

Coach: *Rich Brooks* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

LA SALLE
Philadelphia, PA

S.2	Wagner	27-41
S.9	@MONMOUTH	27-65
S.23	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	29-27
0.7	Marist	0-27
0.21	@IONA	39-32 (OT)
N.4	Duquesne	14-56
N.9	@ST. PETER'S	30-14

Coach: *Tim Miller* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Explorers* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

LAFAYETTE
Easton, PA

S.2	@SACRED HEART	
S.9	@BUCKNELL	33-20
S.16	Pennsylvania	
S.23	@PRINCETON	21-23
S.30	Yale	
0.14	@HARVARD	17-24
0.21	Holy Cross	41-21
0.28	@COLGATE	15-18
N.4	@FORDHAM	27-10
N.11	Georgetown	12-7
N.18	Lehigh	23-19

Coach: *Frank Tavani* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Leopards* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

LEHIGH
Bethlehem, PA

S.2	Albany	
S.9	@VILLANOVA	
S.16	Princeton	
S.30	Harvard	49-24
0.7	@GEORGETOWN	46-14
0.14	@YALE	28-21 (OT)
0.21	Bucknell	42-10
0.28	@HOLY CROSS	10-13
N.4	Colgate	50-34
N.11	Fordham	40-3
N.18	@LAFAYETTE	19-23

Coach: *Andy Coen* ***Colors:*** *Brawn & White*
Nickname: *Mountain Hawks* ***2005 Record:*** *8-3*

LIBERTY
Lynchburg, VA

A.31	St. Paul's College	
S.9	Glenville State	
S.16	@TOWSON	17-38
S.23	@SAVANNAH STATE	
S.30	@WAKE FOREST	
0.14	William & Mary	0-56
0.21	Gardner-Webb	16-21
0.28	@COASTAL CAROLINA	21-27 (OT)
N.4	Western Carolina	
N.11	Charleston Southern	30-31
N.18	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	7-10

Coach: *Danny Rocca* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Blue*
Nickname: *Flames* ***2005 Record:*** *1-10*

LOUISIANA TECH
Ruston, LA

S.2	@NEBRASKA	
S.16	Nicholls State	
S.23	@TEXAS A&M	
S.30	@CLEMSON	
0.7	@BOISE STATE	13-30
0.14	Idaho	41-38
0.21	Utah State	27-17
0.28	@SAN JOSE STATE	31-14
N.4	@NORTH TEXAS	40-14
N.11	@HAWAII	46-14
N.18	Nevada	27-37
N.24	Fresno State	40-28
D.2	@NEW MEXICO STATE	34-14

Coach: *Jack Bicknell III* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Lafayette, LA

S.2	@LSU	
S.9	@TEXAS A&M	
S.16	McNeese State	
S.30	Eastern Michigan	10-31
0.7	@HOUSTON	
0.18	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	10-28
0.28	Middle Tennessee State	13-10
N.4	@TROY	31-28 (OT)
N.11	North Texas	31-28
N.18	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	28-7
N.25	Arkansas State	36-39
D.2	Louisiana-Monroe	54-21

Coach: *Rickey Bustle* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
Nickname: *Ragin' Cajuns* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

LOUISIANA-MONRDE
Monroe, LA

S.2	Alcorn State	
S.9	@KANSAS	
S.16	@ALABAMA	
S.30	Florida Atlantic	28-21
0.7	@ARKANSAS STATE	31-27
0.14	@TROY	27-3
0.21	Middle Tennessee State	34-31
0.28	@ARKANSAS*	15-44
N.4	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	29-31
N.18	@KENTUCKY	
N.25	North Texas	24-19
D.2	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	21-54

*At Little Rock, AR

Coach: *Charlie Weatherbie* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal Red & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Indians* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

LOUISVILLE
Louisville, KY

S.2	Kentucky	31-24
S.9	@TEMPLE	
S.16	Miami (FL)	
S.23	@KANSAS STATE	
0.6	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	
0.14	Cincinnati	46-22
0.21	@SYRACUSE	41-17
N.2	West Virginia	44-46 (OT)
N.9	@RUTGERS	56-5
N.18	South Florida	14-45
N.25	@PITTSBURGH	42-20
D.2	Connecticut	30-20

Coach: *Bobby Petrino* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Cardinals* ***2005 Record:*** *9-2*

LSU
Baton Rouge, LA

S.2	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.9	Arizona	
S.16	@AUBURN	20-17 (OT)
S.23	Tulane	
S.30	Mississippi State	37-7
0.7	@FLORIDA	21-17
0.14	Kentucky	
0.21	Fresno State	
N.4	@TENNESSEE	27-30 (OT)
N.11	Alabama	16-13 (OT)
N.18	Mississippi	40-7
N.24	@ARKANSAS*	19-17

*At Little Rock, AR

Coach: *Les Miles* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *10-2*

MAINE
Orono, ME

S.9	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S.16	@WILLIAM & MARY	
S.30	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
0.7	@TOWSON	
0.14	Villanova	
0.21	Hofstra	0-44
0.28	@RHODE ISLAND	27-24 (OT)
N.4	Northeastern	14-10
N.11	@MASSACHUSETTS	14-35
N.18	New Hampshire	47-59

Coach: *Jack Cosgrove* ***Colors:*** *White & Blue*
Nickname: *Black Bears* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

MARIST
Poughkeepsie, NY

S.2	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	31-22
S.9	Sacred Heart	22-20
S.16	Wagner	38-21
S.23	Holy Cross	
S.30	Bucknell	7-27
0.7	@LA SALLE	27-0
0.14	@FORDHAM	
0.21	@DUQUESNE	14-22
0.28	St. Peter's	52-34
N.4	@GEORGETOWN	
N.11	Iona	28-27

Coach: *Jim Parady* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Red Foxes* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MARSHALL
Huntington, WV

S.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.9	Hofstra	
S.16	@KANSAS STATE	19-21
S.23	@TENNESSEE	
0.4	UCF	13-23
0.14	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	16-13 (OT)
0.21	@UAB	20-19
0.28	Memphis	3-26
N.4	Tulane	27-26
N.11	@EAST CAROLINA	29-34
N.18	UTEP	3-31
N.25	@SOUTHERN MISS	24-27 (OT)

Coach: *Mark Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Thundering Herd* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

MARYLAND
College Park, MD

S.2	William & Mary	
S.9	Middle Tennessee State	
S.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-31
S.23	Florida International	
0.7	@GEORGIA TECH	
0.14	@VIRGINIA	45-33
0.21	North Carolina State	14-20
0.28	Florida State	27-35
N.4	@CLEMSON	24-28
N.11	Miami (FL)	
N.18	@BOSTON COLLEGE	16-31
N.25	Wake Forest	22-12

Coach: *Ralph Friedgen* ***Colors:*** *Red, White, Black & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Terrapins* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

MASSACHUSETTS
Amherst, MA

S.2	Colgate	14-17
S.9	@NAVY	
S.16	@VILLANOVA	
S.23	Stony Brook	
0.7	William & Mary	
0.14	@TOWSON	
0.21	Rhode Island	14-6
0.28	@NORTHEASTERN	27-0
N.4	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	28-37
N.11	Maine	35-14
N.18	Hofstra	10-21

Coach: *Don Brown* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Minutemen* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MCNEESE STATE
Lake Charles, LA

S.2	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.9	West Virginia Tech	
S.16	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S.23	@TOLEDO	
S.30	South Dakota State	
0.7	Southern Utah	
0.14	Texas State	7-49
0.21	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	33-23
0.28	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	31-26
N.4	Southeastern Louisiana	13-37
N.11	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	22-17
N.18	Nicholls State	26-39

Coach: *Tommy Tate* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2005 Record:*** *5-4*

MEMPHIS
Memphis, TN

S.2	@MISSISSIPPI	6-10
S.9	Chattanooga	59-14
S.16	@EAST CAROLINA	27-24
S.30	Tennessee	16-20
0.7	@UAB	20-37
0.14	Arkansas State	
0.21	Tulsa	31-37 (OT)
0.28	@MARSHALL	26-3
N.4	Southern Miss	24-22
N.11	UCF	17-38
N.18	Houston	35-20
N.25	@UTEP	27-20

Coach: *Tommy West* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

MIAMI (FL)
Coral Gables, FL

S.4	Florida State	7-10
S.9	Florida A&M	
S.16	@LOUISVILLE	
S.30	Houston	
0.7	North Carolina	34-16
0.14	Florida International	
0.21	@DUKE	52-7
0.28	@GEORGIA TECH	10-14
N.4	Virginia Tech	27-7
N.11	@MARYLAND	
N.18	@VIRGINIA	25-17
N.23	Boston College	

Coach: *Larry Coker* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hurricanes* ***2005 Record:*** *9-2*

MIAMI (OH)
Oxford, OH

A.31	Northwestern	
S.9	@PURDUE	
S.16	Kent State	27-10
S.23	@SYRACUSE	
S.30	@CINCINNATI	44-16
0.7	Northern Illinois	27-38
0.14	@BUFFALO	54-13
0.21	@AKRON	51-23
0.28	Ball State	
N.4	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	
N.15	@BOWLING GREEN	14-42
N.24	Ohio	38-7

Coach: *Shane Montgomery* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *RedHawks* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor, MI

S.2	Vanderbilt	
S.9	Central Michigan	
S.16	@NOTRE DAME	10-17
S.23	Wisconsin	20-23
S.30	@MINNESOTA	20-23
0.7	Michigan State	34-31 (OT)
0.14	@PENN STATE	27-25
0.21	Iowa	23-20 (OT)
0.28	Northwestern	33-17
N.4	Ball State	
N.11	@INDIANA	41-14
N.18	@OHIO STATE	21-25

Coach: *Lloyd Carr* ***Colors:*** *Maize & Blue*
Nickname: *Wolverines* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MICHIGAN STATE
East Lansing, MI

S.2	Idaho	
S.9	Eastern Michigan	
S.16	@PITTSBURGH	
S.23	Notre Dame	44-41 (OT)
S.30	Illinois	61-14
0.7	@MICHIGAN	31-34 (OT)
0.14	Ohio State	24-35
0.21	@NORTHWESTERN	14-49
0.28	@INDIANA	46-15
N.4	Purdue	21-28
N.11	Minnesota	18-41
N.18	@PENN STATE	22-31

Coach: *John L. Smith* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Murfreesboro, TN

A.31	Florida International	31-35
S.9	@MARYLAND	
S.14	Tennessee Tech	
S.23	@OKLAHOMA	
S.30	@NORTH TEXAS	7-14
0.6	Louisville	
0.21	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	31-34
0.28	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	10-13
N.4	Florida Atlantic	35-14
N.11	@ARKANSAS STATE	45-7
N.18	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
N.25	Troy	17-7

Coach: *Rick Stockstill* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Raiders* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis, MN

A.31	@KENT STATE	
S.9	@CALIFORNIA	
S.16	Temple	
S.23	@PURDUE	42-35 (OT)
S.30	Michigan	23-20
0.7	Penn State	14-44
0.14	@WISCONSIN	34-38
0.21	North Dakota State	
0.28	@OHIO STATE	31-45
N.4	Indiana	42-21
N.11	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-18
N.18	Iowa	28-52

Coach: *Glen Mason* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Gopher* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MISSISSIPPI
Oxford, MS

S.2	Memphis	10-6
S.9	@MISSOURI	
S.16	@KENTUCKY	13-7
S.23	Wake Forest	
S.30	Georgia	
0.7	Vanderbilt	23-31
0.14	@ALABAMA	10-13
0.21	@ARKANSAS	17-28
0.28	Auburn	3-27
N.4	Northwestern State	
N.18	@LSU	7-40
N.25	Mississippi State	14-35

Coach: *Ed Orgeron* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal Red & Navy Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Starkville, MS

A.31	South Carolina	
S.9	Auburn	0-28
S.16	Tulane	21-14
S.23	@UAB	
S.30	@LSU	7-37
O.7	West Virginia	
O.14	Jacksonville State	
O.21	@GEORGIA	10-23
O.28	Kentucky	7-13
N.4	@ALABAMA	0-17
N.18	Arkansas	10-44
N.25	@MISSISSIPPI	35-14

Coach: *Sylvester Croom* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
Itta Bena, MS

S.2	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF*	30-17
S.9	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	31-28
S.16	Alabama A&M	13-27
S.23	@JACKSON STATE	14-33
S.30	Concordia College	
O.7	Grambling State	22-37
O.14	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
O.21	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	35-28
O.28	Prairie View A&M	58-13
N.4	Alcorn State	36-38
N.11	@ALABAMA STATE	38-33

**At Chicago, IL*

Coach: *Willie Tatten* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Delta Devils* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

MISSOURI
Columbia, MO

S.2	Murray State	
S.9	Mississippi	
S.16	@NEW MEXICO	35-45
S.23	Ohio	
S.30	Colorado	12-41
O.7	@TEXAS TECH	
O.14	@TEXAS A&M	
O.21	Kansas State	28-36
O.28	Oklahoma	
N.4	@NEBRASKA	41-24
N.18	@IOWA STATE	27-24 (OT)
N.25	Kansas	3-13

Coach: *Gary Pinkel* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

MISSOURI STATE
Springfield, MO

S.2	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.9	Southwest Baptist	
S.16	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
S.23	Sam Houston State	
S.30	Youngstown State	7-31
O.7	@NORTHERN IOWA	24-21
O.14	Western Kentucky	28-37
O.21	@INDIANA STATE	31-27
O.28	Southern Illinois	23-30 (OT)
N.4	@ILLINOIS STATE	23-48
N.11	Western Illinois	24-34

Coach: *Terry Allen* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2005 Record:*** *4-6*

MONMOUTH
West Long Branch, NJ

S.2	@FORDHAM	
S.9	La Salle	65-27
S.16	St. Peter's	
S.23	@COLGATE	
S.30	Stony Brook	36-7
O.7	Sacred Heart	45-14
O.14	@WAGNER	20-26
O.21	@ROBERT MORRIS	14-0
O.28	Central Connecticut State	13-15
N.4	St. Francis (PA)	15-19
N.11	@ALBANY	16-13

Coach: *Kevin Callahan* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hawks* ***2005 Record:*** *6-4*

MONTANA
Missaula, MT

S.2	@IOWA	
S.9	South Dakota State	7-0
S.23	Sacramento State	31-14
S.30	@PORTLAND STATE	37-16
O.7	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	20-34
O.14	Northern Arizona	23-0
O.21	@WEBER STATE	24-19
O.28	Idaho State	32-10
N.4	Cal Poly	21-35
N.11	@NORTHERN COLORADO	
N.18	Montana State	6-16

Coach: *Babby Hauck* ***Colors:*** *Copper, Silver & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Grizzlies* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

MONTANA STATE
Bozeman, MT

S.2	@COLORADO	
S.9	Chadron State	
S.16	California-Davis	
S.23	Eastern Washington	14-35
S.30	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	29-22
O.7	Portland State	41-44
O.14	@SACRAMENTO STATE	37-16
O.21	@IDAHO STATE	30-28
O.28	Weber State	27-24
N.4	Northern Colorado	
N.18	@MONTANA	16-6

Coach: *Mike Kramer* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bobcats* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

MOREHEAD STATE
Morehead, KY

A.31	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S.9	@NEWBERRY	35-33
S.16	Valparaiso	48-7
S.23	Missouri-Rolla	56-55
S.30	@DRAKE	
O.7	@DAYTON	7-42
O.14	Davidson	31-13
O.21	Jacksonville	31-12
O.28	@SAN DIEGO	40-47
N.4	@BUTLER	58-10
N.11	Austin Peay	44-12

Coach: *Matt Ballard* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White* ***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

MORGAN STATE
Baltimore, MD

S.2	@TOWSON	26-29
S.16	Bowie State	21-35
S.23	@HAMPTON*	14-44
S.30	Bethune-Cookman	26-44
O.7	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	33-40 (OT)
O.14	@HOWARD	7-0
O.21	Delaware State	14-41
O.28	@FLORIDA A&M	16-27
N.4	@NORFOLK STATE	21-24
N.11	South Carolina State	15-65

**At East Rutherford, NY*

Coach: *Danald Hill-Eley* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

MURRAY STATE
Murray, KY

S.2	@MISSOURI	
S.9	@TENNESSEE STATE	
S.16	@INDIANA STATE	27-15
S.23	Illinois State	0-42
S.30	Tennessee Tech	21-42
O.5	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	23-28
O.14	Samford	23-27
O.21	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	28-35
O.28	Southeast Missouri State	21-52
N.4	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	7-43
N.18	Tennessee-Martin	20-49

Coach: *Matt Griffin* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Racers* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

NAVY
Annapolis, MD

S.2	East Carolina	
S.9	Massachusetts	
S.16	@STANFORD	38-41
S.23	Tulsa	
S.30	@CONNECTICUT	
O.7	@AIR FORCE	27-24
O.14	Rutgers	21-31
O.28	Notre Dame*	21-42
N.4	@DUKE	28-21
N.11	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
N.18	Temple	38-17
D.2	Army**	42-23

**At Baltimore, MD*
***At Philadelphia, PA*

Coach: *Paul Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Midshipmen* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

NEBRASKA
Lincoln, NE

S.2	Louisiana Tech	
S.9	Nicholls State	
S.16	@USC	
S.23	Troy	
S.30	Kansas	15-40
O.7	@IOWA STATE	27-20 (OT)
O.14	@KANSAS STATE	27-25
O.21	Texas	
O.28	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
N.4	Missouri	24-41
N.11	@TEXAS A&M	
N.24	Colorado	30-3

Coach: *Bill Callahan* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Cream* ***Nickname:*** *Cornhuskers* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

NEVADA
Reno, NV

S.1	@FRESNO STATE	38-35
S.9	@ARIZONA STATE	
S.16	Colorado State	21-42
S.22	Northwestern	
S.30	@UNLV	22-14
O.7	@HAWAII	38-28
O.21	San Jose State	30-23
O.28	New Mexico State	48-24
N.4	@IDAHO	62-14
N.11	Utah State	30-24
N.18	@LOUISIANA TECH	37-27
N.25	Boise State	14-49

Coach: *Chris Ault* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Silver* ***Nickname:*** *Wolf Pack* ***2005 Record:*** *8-3*

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Durham, NH

S.9	@NORTHWESTERN	
S.16	Stony Brook	
S.23	@DARTMOUTH	49-20
S.30	@DELAWARE	
O.7	Richmond	
O.14	James Madison	
O.21	@NORTHEASTERN	52-21
O.28	Hofstra	29-26
N.4	Massachusetts	37-28
N.11	@RHODE ISLAND	53-9
N.18	@MAINE	59-47

Coach: *Sean McDonnell* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *11-2*

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque, NM

S.2	Portland State	
S.9	@NEW MEXICO STATE	38-21
S.16	Missouri	45-35
S.23	UTEP	13-21
S.30	@AIR FORCE	24-42
O.7	Wyoming	27-24
O.14	@UNLV	24-22
O.19	Utah	31-27
O.28	@COLORADO STATE	25-35
N.11	TCU	28-49
N.18	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-27
N.25	San Diego State	47-24

Coach: *Rocky Long* ***Colors:*** *Cherry & Sliver* ***Nickname:*** *Lobos* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

NEW MEXICO STATE
Las Cruces, NM

A.31	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.9	New Mexico	21-38
S.16	Texas Southern	
S.30	@UTEP	17-34
O.7	@IDAHO	37-38 (OT)
O.15	Boise State	6-56
O.21	Hawaii	28-49
O.28	@NEVADA	24-48
N.4	San Jose State	10-27
N.11	@FRESNO STATE	7-37
N.25	@UTAH STATE	21-24
D.2	Louisiana Tech	14-34

Coach: *Hal Mumme* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2005 Record:*** *0-12*

NICHOLLS STATE
Thibodaux, LA

A.31	Southern Arkansas	
S.9	@NEBRASKA	
S.16	@LOUISIANA TECH	
S.23	South Dakota State	
O.7	Southeastern Louisiana	38-28
O.14	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	37-17
O.21	Northwestern State	31-24
O.28	Assumption	
N.4	@TEXAS STATE	32-29 (OT)
N.11	Stephen F. Austin	21-27 (OT)
N.18	@MCNEESE STATE	39-26

Coach: *Jay Thomas* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Gray & Royal* ***Nickname:*** *Colonels* ***2005 Record:*** *6-4*

NORFOLK STATE
Norfolk, VA

S.2	Virginia State	6-34
S.9	Virginia Military	
S.23	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	61-63 (OT)
S.30	North Carolina A&T	14-16
O.7	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	21-35
O.14	@HAMPTON	14-55
O.21	Florida A&M	17-31
O.28	@HOWARD	26-7
N.4	Morgan State	24-21
N.11	Delaware State	17-38
N.18	Winston-Salem	

Coach: *Pete Adrian* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Spartans* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

NORTH CAROLINA
Chapel Hill, NC

S.2	Rutgers	
S.9	Virginia Tech	3-30
S.16	Furman	
S.23	@CLEMSON	
O.7	@MIAMI (FL)	16-34
O.14	South Florida	
O.19	@VIRGINIA	7-5
O.28	Wake Forest	
N.4	@NOTRE DAME	
N.11	Georgia Tech	21-27
N.18	North Carolina State	31-24
N.25	@DUKE	24-21

Coach: *John Bunting* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Tar Heels* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Greensboro, NC

S.2	Winston-Salem	
S.16	@HAMPTON	14-31
S.30	@NORFOLK STATE	16-14
O.7	Morgan State	40-33 (OT)
O.14	@DELAWARE STATE	13-23
O.21	Howard	0-16
O.28	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	17-54
N.4	Florida A&M	14-24
N.11	Elon	9-12
N.18	South Carolina State	27-43

Coach: *Lee Fabbs, Jr.* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Raleigh, NC

S.2	Appalachian State	
S.9	Akron	
S.16	@SOUTHERN MISS	21-17
S.23	Boston College	10-30
O.5	Florida State	20-15
O.14	Wake Forest	19-27
O.21	@MARYLAND	20-14
O.28	@VIRGINIA	
N.4	Georgia Tech	17-14
N.11	@CLEMSON	10-31
N.18	@NORTH CAROLINA	24-31
N.25	East Carolina	

Coach: *Chuck Amato* ***Colors:*** *Red & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wolfpack* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Fargo, ND

A.31	Concordia-St. Paul	
S.16	Northeastern	
S.23	@BALL STATE	
S.30	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
O.7	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
O.14	Mississippi Valley State	
O.21	@MINNESOTA	
O.28	@SOUTHERN UTAH	37-21
N.4	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	14-20
N.11	Cal Poly	6-37
N.18	South Dakota State	41-17

Coach: *Craig Bohl* ***Colors:*** *Green & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Bison* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

NORTH TEXAS
Dentan, TX

S.2	@TEXAS	
S.9	Southern Methodist	
S.16	@TULSA	2-54
S.23	@AKRON	
S.30	Middle Tennessee State	14-7
O.7	Florida International	13-10
O.21	@ARKANSAS STATE	24-31
O.28	@TROY	10-13
N.4	Louisiana Tech	14-40
N.11	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	28-31
N.18	Florida Atlantic	23-26
N.25	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	19-24

Coach: *Darrell Dickey* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Mean Green* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

NORTHEASTERN
Bostan, MA

S.2	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S.9	@HOLY CROSS	
S.16	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.23	@JAMES MADISON	
S.30	@RICHMOND	
O.7	Delaware	
O.21	New Hampshire	21-52
O.28	Massachusetts	0-27
N.4	@MAINE	10-14
N.11	@HOFSTRA	17-20
N.18	Rhode Island	17-14

Coach: *Racky Hager* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

NORTHERN ARIZONA
Flagstaff, AZ

A.31	@ARIZONA STATE	
S.9	@UTAH	
S.16	Dixie State	
S.23	@IDAHO STATE	42-28
S.30	Montana State	22-29
O.14	@MONTANA	0-23
O.21	Sacramento State	24-38
O.28	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	14-42
N.4	Portland State	0-45
N.11	Weber State	23-31
N.18	@NORTHERN COLORADO	

Coach: *Jerome Souers* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Lumberjacks* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

NORTHERN COLORADO
Greeley, CO

S.2	California-Oavis	14-24
S.9	@PORTLAND STATE	17-41
S.16	@TEXAS STATE	
S.23	Western Illinois	23-28
S.29	@WEBER STATE	
O.7	Idaho State	
O.14	Eastern Washington	
O.28	@SACRAMENTO STATE	
N.4	@MONTANA STATE	
N.11	Montana	
N.18	Northern Arizona	

Coach: *Scott Downing* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
De Kalb, IL

S.2	@OHIO STATE	
S.9	Ohio	
S.16	Buffalo	
S.23	Indiana State	
S.30	@BALL STATE	17-31
O.7	@MIAMI (OH)	38-27
O.14	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	42-7
O.21	Temple	
O.28	@IOWA	
N.7	Toledo	35-17
N.17	Central Michigan	31-28
N.24	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	24-8

Coach: *Joe Novak* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2005 Record:*** *7-5*

NORTHERN IOWA
Cedar Falls, IA

A.31	@DRAKE	52-17
S.9	North Dakota	
S.16	South Dakota State	
S.30	@IOWA STATE	
O.7	Missouri State	21-24
O.14	@INDIANA STATE	31-10
O.21	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	21-7
O.28	Western Illinois	41-24
N.4	Western Kentucky	23-20 (OT)
N.11	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	25-24
N.18	Illinois State	3-38

Coach: *Mark Farley* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Old Gald* ***Nickname:*** *Panthers* ***2005 Record:*** *11-3*

NORTHWESTERN
Evanston, IL

A.31	@MIAMI (OH)	
S.9	New Hampshire	
S.16	Eastern Michigan	
S.22	@NEVADA	
S.30	@PENN STATE	29-34
O.7	@WISCONSIN	51-48
O.14	Purdue	34-29
O.21	Michigan State	49-14
O.28	@MICHIGAN	17-33
N.4	@IOWA	28-27
N.11	Ohio State	7-48
N.18	Illinois	38-21

Coach: *Randy Walker* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

NORTHWESTERN STATE
Natchitaches, LA

S.2	@KANSAS	
S.9	@BAYLOR	
S.16	Delaware State	
S.30	Arkansas-Monticello	
O.7	Sam Houston State	10-6
O.14	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	31-10
O.21	@NICHOLLS STATE	24-31
O.28	Texas State	16-31
N.4	@MISSISSIPPI	
N.11	McNeese State	17-22
N.18	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	41-21

Coach: *Scott Stoker* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Demons* ***2005 Record:*** *5-5*

NOTRE DAME
Natre Dame, IN

S.2	@GEORGIA TECH	
S.9	Penn State	
S.16	Michigan	17-10
S.23	@MICHIGAN STATE	41-44 (OT)
S.30	Purdue	49-28
O.7	Stanford	38-31
O.21	UCLA	
O.28	@NAVY*	42-21
N.4	North Carolina	
N.11	@AIR FORCE	
N.18	Army	
N.25	@USC	31-34

**At Baltimore, MD*

Coach: *Charlie Weis* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Fighting Irish* ***2005 Record:*** *9-2*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

OHIO
Athens, OH

S.2	Tennessee-Martin	
S.9	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S.16	@RUTGERS	
S.23	@MISSOURI	
S.30	Bowling Green	14-38
0.7	Western Michigan	
0.14	@ILLINOIS	
0.21	Buffalo	34-20
0.28	@KENT STATE	35-32
N.4	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
N.16	Akron	3-27
N.24	@MIAMI (OH)	7-38

Coach: *Frank Solich* **Colors:** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Bobcats* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

OHIO STATE
Columbus, OH

S.2	Northern Illinois	
S.9	@TEXAS	22-25
S.16	Cincinnati	
S.23	Penn State	10-17
S.30	@IOWA	31-6
0.7	Bowling Green	
0.14	@MICHIGAN STATE	35-24
0.21	Indiana	41-10
0.28	Minnesota	45-31
N.4	@ILLINOIS	40-2
N.11	@NORTHWESTERN	48-7
N.18	Michigan	25-21

Coach: *Jim Tressel* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Gray*
Nickname: *Buckeyes* **2005 Record:** *9-2*

OKLAHOMA
Norman, OK

S.2	UAB	
S.9	Washington	
S.16	@OREGON	
S.23	Middle Tennessee State	
0.7	Texas*	12-45
0.14	Iowa State	
0.21	Colorado	
0.28	@MISSOURI	
N.4	@TEXAS A&M	36-30
N.11	Texas Tech	21-23
N.18	@BAYLOR	37-30 (OT)
N.25	@OKLAHOMA STATE	42-14

**At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Bob Stoops* **Colors:** *Crimson & Cream*
Nickname: *Sooners* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

OKLAHOMA STATE
Stillwater, OK

S.2	Missouri State	
S.9	@ARKANSAS STATE*	20-10
S.16	Florida Atlantic	23-3
S.23	@HOUSTON	
0.7	@KANSAS STATE	
0.14	@KANSAS	
0.21	Texas A&M	23-62
0.28	Nebraska	
N.4	@TEXAS	28-47
N.11	Baylor	34-44
N.18	@TEXAS TECH	24-17
N.25	Oklahoma	14-42

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Mike Gundy* **Colors:** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Cowboys* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

OREGON
Eugene, OR

S.2	Stanford	44-20
S.9	@FRESNO STATE	37-34
S.16	Oklahoma	
S.30	@ARIZONA STATE	31-17
0.7	@CALIFORNIA	27-20 (OT)
0.14	UCLA	
0.21	@WASHINGTON STATE	34-31
0.28	Portland State	
N.4	Washington	45-21
N.11	@USC	13-45
N.18	Arizona	28-21
N.25	@OREGON STATE	56-14

Coach: *Mike Bellotti* **Colors:** *Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow* **Nickname:** *Ducks*
2005 Record: *10-1*

OREGON STATE
Corvallis, OR

A.31	Eastern Washington	
S.7	@BOISE STATE	30-27
S.23	Idaho	
S.30	California	23-20
0.7	Washington State	44-33
0.14	@WASHINGTON	18-10
0.21	@ARIZONA	27-29
0.28	USC	
N.4	Arizona State	24-42
N.11	@UCLA	28-51
N.18	@STANFORD	17-20
N.25	Oregon	14-56
D.2	@HAWAII	

Coach: *Mike Riley* **Colors:** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Beavers* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

PENN STATE
University Park, PA

S.2	Akron	
S.9	@NOTRE DAME	
S.16	Youngstown State	
S.23	@OHIO STATE	17-10
S.30	Northwestern	34-29
0.7	@MINNESOTA	44-14
0.14	Michigan	25-27
0.21	Illinois	63-10
0.28	@PURDUE	33-15
N.4	@WISCONSIN	35-14
N.11	Temple	
N.18	Michigan State	31-22

Coach: *Joe Paterno* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Nittany Lions* **2005 Record:** *10-1*

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA

S.16	@LAFAYETTE	
S.23	Villanova	24-28
S.30	Dartmouth	26-9
0.7	@BUCKNELL	53-7
0.14	Columbia	44-16
0.21	@YALE	38-21
0.28	Brown	20-34
N.4	@PRINCETON	13-30
N.11	Harvard	3-29
N.18	@CORNELL	7-16

Coach: *Al Bagnoli* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Quakers* **2005 Record:** *5-5*

PITTSBURGH
Pittsburgh, PA

S.2	Virginia	
S.8	@CINCINNATI	38-20
S.16	Michigan State	
S.23	Citadel	
S.30	Toledo	
0.7	@SYRACUSE	34-17
0.13	@UCF	
0.21	Rutgers	29-37
N.4	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-17
N.11	@CONNECTICUT	24-0
N.16	West Virginia	13-45
N.25	Louisville	20-42

Coach: *Dave Wannstedt* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

PORTLAND STATE
Portland, OR

S.2	@NEW MEXICO	
S.9	Northern Colorado	41-17
S.16	@CALIFORNIA	
S.23	@WEBER STATE	39-14
S.30	Montana	16-37
0.7	@MONTANA STATE	44-41
0.14	Idaho State	34-36
0.21	Eastern Washington	24-42
0.28	@OREGON	
N.4	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	45-0
N.11	@SACRAMENTO STATE	28-12

Coach: *Tim Walsh* **Colors:** *Forest Green & White*
Nickname: *Vikings* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Prairie View, TX

S.2	Texas Southern*	30-27
S.9	Edward Waters	
S.16	Southern University*	0-38
S.23	Concordia College	
S.30	@GRAMBLING STATE**	7-50
0.7	Alcorn State	10-22
0.14	Alabama State	13-34
0.28	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	13-58
N.4	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	34-7
N.11	@JACKSON STATE	27-9
N.18	@ALABAMA A&M	16-31

** At Houston, TX*
*** At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Henry Frazier* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

PRINCETON
Princeton, NJ

S.16	@LEHIGH	
S.23	Lafayette	23-21
S.30	@COLUMBIA	43-3
0.7	@COLGATE	10-16
0.14	Brown	28-31
0.21	Harvard	27-24
0.28	@CORNELL	20-17 (OT)
N.4	Pennsylvania	30-13
N.11	@YALE	14-21
N.18	Dartmouth	30-0

Coach: *Roger Hughes* **Colors:** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2005 Record:** *7-3*

PURDUE
West Lafayette, IN

S.2	Indiana State	
S.9	Miami (OH)	
S.16	Ball State	
S.23	Minnesota	35-42 (OT)
S.30	@NOTRE DAME	28-49
0.7	@IOWA	17-34
0.14	@NORTHWESTERN	29-34
0.21	Wisconsin	20-31
0.28	Penn State	15-33
N.4	@MICHIGAN STATE	28-21
N.11	@ILLINOIS	37-3
N.18	Indiana	41-14
N.25	@HAWAII	

Coach: *Joe Tiller* **Colors:** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Boilermakers* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, RI

A.31	@CONNECTICUT	
S.9	Merrimack	
S.23	Delaware	
S.30	Brown	35-45
0.7	@JAMES MADISON	
0.14	Richmond	
0.21	@MASSACHUSETTS	6-14
0.28	Maine	24-27 (OT)
N.4	@HOFSTRA	24-38
N.11	New Hampshire	9-53
N.18	@NORTHEASTERN	14-17

Coach: *Tim Stowers* **Colors:** *Columbia Blue & White* **Nickname:** *Rams* **2005 Record:** *4-7*

RICE
Houstan, TX

S.2	Houston	18-35
S.9	@UCLA	21-63
S.16	Texas*	10-51
S.23	@FLORIDA STATE	
S.30	@ARMY	
0.7	@TULANE	42-34
0.14	UAB	26-45
0.21	@UCF	28-31
N.4	@UTEP	31-38
N.11	@TULSA	21-41
N.18	East Carolina	28-41
N.25	Southern Methodist	7-27

**At Houston, TX*
Coach: *Todd Graham* **Colors:** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Owls* **2005 Record:** *1-10*

RICHMOND
Richmond, VA

S.2	@DUKE	
S.16	Virginia Military	38-3
S.23	Bucknell	
S.30	Northeastern	
0.7	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
0.14	@RHODE ISLAND	
0.21	Delaware	20-10
0.28	James Madison	18-15
N.4	@VILLANOVA	38-20
N.11	Towson	48-21
N.18	@WILLIAM & MARY	41-7

Coach: *Dave Clawson* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Spiders* **2005 Record:** *9-4*

ROBERT MORRIS
Moon Township, PA

S.2	@DAYTON	
S.9	Duquesne	12-23
S.16	@BUTLER	49-13
S.23	Rowan	28-35 (OT)
S.30	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	28-35
0.7	@WAGNER	38-30
0.14	Central Connecticut State	14-21
0.21	Monmouth	0-14
0.28	@STONY BROOK	37-38
N.4	Albany	17-20
N.11	@SACREO HEART	20-27

Coach: *Joe Walton* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Colonials* **2005 Record:** *2-8*

RUTGERS
Piscataway, NJ

S.2	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S.9	Illinois	30-33 (OT)
S.16	Ohio	
S.23	Howard	
S.29	@SOUTH FLORIDA	31-45
0.14	@NAVY	31-21
0.21	@PITTSBURGH	37-29
0.28	Connecticut	26-24
N.9	Louisville	5-56
N.18	@CINCINNATI	44-9
N.25	Syracuse	31-9
D.2	@WEST VIRGINIA	14-27

Coach: *Greg Schiano* **Colors:** *Scarlet*
Nickname: *Scarlet Knights* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

SACRAMENTO STATE
Sacramento, CA

A.31	@BOISE STATE	
S.16	Cal Poly	13-37
S.23	@MONTANA	14-31
S.30	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	17-45
0.7	Weber State	14-26
0.14	Montana State	16-37
0.21	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	38-24
0.28	Northern Colorado	
N.4	@IDAHO STATE	17-27
N.11	Portland State	12-28
N.18	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	7-37

Coach: *Steve Mooshagian* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Harnets* **2005 Record:** *2-9*

SACREO HEART
Fairfield, CT

S.2	Lafayette	
S.9	@MARIST	20-22
S.16	Iona	38-14
S.23	@OUQUESNE	
S.30	Wagner	21-26
0.7	@MONMOUTH	14-45
0.14	Albany	7-21
0.21	@STONY BROOK	21-14
0.28	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	53-45
N.4	Central Connecticut State	17-24
N.11	Robert Morris	27-20

Coach: *Paul Gorham* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Pioneers* **2005 Record:** *4-6*

SAM HOUSTON STATE
Huntsville, TX

S.9	Arkansas-Monticello	
S.16	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
S.23	@MISSOURI STATE	
S.30	@TEXAS	
0.7	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	6-10
0.14	Nicholls State	17-37
0.21	Central Arkansas	
0.28	McNeese State	26-31
N.4	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	52-24
N.11	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	35-18
N.18	Texas State	23-26 (OT)

Coach: *Todd Whitten* **Colors:** *Orange & White*
Nickname: *Bearkats* 2005 **Record:** *3-7*

SAMFORD
Birmingham, AL

A.31	Miles	
S.9	@GEORGIA TECH	
S.14	Austin Peay	
S.23	Eastern Illinois	14-43
S.30	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	33-17
0.7	Eastern Kentucky	6-38
0.14	@MURRAY STATE	27-23
0.21	Tennessee-Martin	30-22
0.28	@TENNESSEE STATE	31-11
N.4	Tennessee Tech	21-42
N.11	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	20-26

Coach: *Bill Gray* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *5-6*

SAN DIEGO
San Diego, CA

S.2	@AZUSA PACIFIC	30-6
S.9	Dixie State	
S.16	@YALE	17-14
S.30	@DAVIDSON	
0.7	Butler	49-7
0.14	Valparaiso	63-21
0.21	@DRAKE	31-26
0.28	Morehead State	47-40
N.4	@JACKSONVILLE	
N.11	Dayton	48-24
N.25	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	

Coach: *Jim Harbaugh*
Colors: *Navy, Columbia Blue & White*
Nickname: *Toreros* **2005 Record:** *11-1*

SAN DIEGO STATE
San Diego, CA

A.31	UTEP	
S.16	@WISCONSIN	
S.23	Utah	28-19
S.30	@SAN JOSE STATE	52-21
0.7	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	31-10
0.21	Air Force	29-41
0.28	Cal Poly	
N.4	@WYOMING	34-21
N.11	UNLV	10-13
N.18	@TCU	20-23
N.25	@NEW MEXICO	24-47
D.2	Colorado State	30-10

Coach: *Chuck Long* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Aztecs* **2005 Record:** *5-7*

SAN JOSE STATE
San Jose, CA

S.2	@WASHINGTON	
S.9	Stanford	
S.23	Cal Poly	
S.30	San Diego State	21-52
0.14	Utah State	17-24
0.21	@NEVADA	23-30
0.28	Louisiana Tech	14-31
N.4	@NEW MEXICO STATE	27-10
N.11	Boise State	21-38
N.18	@HAWAII	38-45
N.25	@IDAHO	26-18
D.2	Fresno State	7-45

Coach: *Dick Tomey* **Colors:** *Gold, Blue & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* **2005 Record:** *3-8*

SAVANNAH STATE
Savannah, GA

S.2	@BENEDICT*	14-31
S.9	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	13-56
S.23	Liberty	
S.30	@HOWARD	21-39
0.7	Charleston Southern	28-48
0.14	Morehouse**	
0.21	Winston-Salem	
0.28	@JOHNSON SMITH	
N.4	@COASTAL CAROLINA	16-42
N.11	Edward Waters	
N.18	@CAL POLY	

**At Columbia, SC*
*** At Augusta, GA*
Coach: *Theo Leman* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2005 Record:** *0-11*

SOUTH CAROLINA
Columbia, SC

A.31	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S.9	Georgia	15-17
S.16	Wofford	
S.23	Florida Atlantic	
S.28	Auburn	7-48
0.7	@KENTUCKY	44-16
0.21	@VANDERBILT	35-28
0.28	Tennessee	16-15
N.4	Arkansas	14-10
N.11	@FLORIDA	30-22
N.18	Middle Tennessee State	
N.25	@CLEMSON	9-13

Coach: *Steve Spurrier* **Colars:** *Garnet & Black*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* **2005 Record:** *7-4*

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Orangeburg, SC

S.2	@WOFFORD	
S.9	@WINSTON-SALEM	52-12
S.16	Bethune-Cookman	27-24
S.23	@COASTAL CAROLINA	23-24
0.7	Norfolk State	35-21
0.14	@FLORIDA A&M	49-3
0.21	Hampton	10-14
0.28	@DELAWARE STATE	24-3
N.4	Howard	23-9
N.11	@MORGAN STATE	65-15
N.18	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	43-27

Coach: *Buddy Paugh* **Colors:** *Garnet & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2005 Record:** *9-2*

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Brookings, SD

S.2	Wisconsin-La Crosse	42-13
S.9	@MONTANA	0-7
S.16	@NORTHERN IOWA	
S.23	@NICHOLLS STATE	
S.30	@MCNEESE STATE	
0.7	Central Arkansas	
0.21	@CAL POLY	16-24
0.28	California-Davis	16-14
N.4	William Penn	
N.11	@SOUTHERN UTAH	55-7
N.18	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	17-41

Coach: *John Stiegelmeier* **Colors:** *Yellow & Blue*
Nickname: *Jackrabbits* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

SOUTH FLORIDA
Tampa, FL

S.2	McNeese State	
S.9	Florida International	
S.16	@UCF	31-14
S.23	@KANSAS	
S.29	Rutgers	45-31
0.7	Connecticut	10-15
0.14	@NORTH CAROLINA	
0.21	@CINCINNATI	31-16
N.4	Pittsburgh	17-31
N.11	Syracuse	27-0
N.18	@LOUISVILLE	45-14
N.25	@WEST VIRGINIA	13-28

Coach: *Jim Leavitt* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bulls* **2005 Record:** *6-5*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Cape Girardeau, MO

S.2	@AUSTIN PEAY	
S.9	Missouri-Rolla	
S.16	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	10-24
S.30	Samford	17-33
O.7	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	24-48
O.14	@ARKANSAS	
O.21	Eastern Kentucky	32-33
O.28	@MURRAY STATE	52-21
N.4	Tennessee-Martin	21-24
N.11	@TENNESSEE STATE	32-24
N.18	Tennessee Tech	24-31

Coach: *Tony Samuel* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Redhawks* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Hammand, LA

A.31	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
S.9	@SOUTHERN MISS	
S.16	Jacksonville	
S.23	@TEXAS TECH	
S.30	Gardner-Webb	
O.7	@NICHOLLS STATE	28-38
O.14	Northwestern State	10-31
O.21	@TEXAS STATE	15-30
O.28	Stephen F. Austin	45-23
N.4	@MCNEESE STATE	37-13
N.11	Sam Houston State	18-35

Coach: *Dennis Roland* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Silver & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Lions* ***2005 Record:*** *4-6*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Carbondale, IL

A.31	Lock Haven	
S.16	@INDIANA	
S.23	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	
S.30	Indiana State	42-20
O.7	Western Illinois	34-24
O.14	@ILLINOIS STATE	35-61
O.21	Western Kentucky	31-20
O.28	@MISSOURI STATE	30-23 (OT)
N.4	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	31-17
N.11	Northern Iowa	24-25
N.18	Southern Utah	

Coach: *Jerry Kill* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Salukis* ***2005 Record:*** *9-4*

SOUTHERN METHODIST
Dallas, TX

S.2	@TEXAS TECH	
S.9	@NORTH TEXAS	
S.16	Sam Houston State	
S.23	Arkansas State	
S.30	@TULANE	10-31
O.7	@UTEP	40-27
O.14	Marshall	13-16 (OT)
O.21	@EAST CAROLINA	17-24
O.31	UAB	28-27
N.11	Houston	29-24
N.18	Tulsa	13-20
N.25	@RICE	27-7

Coach: *Phil Bennett* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Mustangs* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Hattiesburg, MS

S.2	@FLORIDA	
S.9	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.16	North Carolina State	17-21
S.26	@UCF	52-31
O.3	@TULSA	17-34
O.14	Houston	24-27
O.21	@VIRGINIA TECH	
O.28	East Carolina	33-7
N.4	@MEMPHIS	22-24
N.11	@TULANE	26-7
N.18	UAB	37-28
N.25	Marshall	27-24 (OT)

Coach: *Jeff Bower* ***Colors:*** *Black & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Eagles* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Baton Rouge, LA

S.2	Bethune-Cookman*	
S.9	Mississippi Valley State	28-31
S.16	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M**	38-0
S.23	North Carolina Central	
S.30	Alabama State	35-45
O.7	@ALABAMA A&M	7-20
O.14	@JACKSON STATE	20-14
O.21	@ALCORN STATE	16-38
N.4	Texas Southern	44-20
N.11	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	27-21
N.25	@GRAMBLING STATE***	35-50

** At Jacksonville, FL*
*** At Houston, TX*
****At New Orleans, LA*

Coach: *Pete Richardson* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Jaguars* ***2005 Record:*** *4-5*

SOUTHERN UTAH
Cedar City, UT

S.2	Montana Tech	
S.9	Western State	
S.16	@WEBER STATE	10-27
S.23	Texas State	0-34
S.30	@CAL POLY	10-20
O.7	@MCNEESE STATE	
O.21	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	21-33
O.28	North Dakota State	21-37
N.11	South Dakota State	7-55
N.18	@SOUTHERN ILLINDIS	

Coach: *Wes Meier* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet, Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Thunderbirds* ***2005 Record:*** *1-9*

ST. FRANCIS (PA)
Loretto, PA

S.2	St. Peter's	22-25
S.9	@DELAWARE STATE	
S.16	@DUQUESNE	17-44
S.23	La Salle	27-29
S.30	Robert Morris	35-28
O.7	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	31-28
O.14	Stony Brook	29-47
O.21	@ALBANY	16-25
O.28	Sacred Heart	45-53
N.4	@MONMOUTH	19-15
N.11	Wagner	21-23

Coach: *Dave Opfar* ***Colors:*** *Red & White* ***Nickname:*** *Red Flash* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

ST. PETER'S
Jersey City, NJ

S.2	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	25-22
S.9	@WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE	13-37
S.16	@MONMOUTH	
S.23	@WAGNER	25-52
S.30	Central Connecticut State	20-56
O.14	Duquesne	0-24
O.19	Salisbury State	16-41
O.28	@MARIST	34-52
N.4	@IONA	26-27
N.9	La Salle	14-30

Coach: *Chris Taylar* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Peacocks* ***2005 Record:*** *1-9*

STANFORD
Stanford, CA

S.2	@OREGON	20-44
S.9	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.16	Navy	41-38
S.23	Washington State	24-21
S.30	@UCLA	27-30 (OT)
O.7	@NOTRE DAME	31-38
O.14	Arizona	20-16
O.21	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
N.4	USC	21-51
N.11	@WASHINGTON	
N.18	Oregon State	20-17
D.2	@CALIFORNIA	3-27

Coach: *Walt Harris* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White* ***Nickname:*** *Cardinal* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Nacogdoches, TX

A.31	@TULSA	
S.9	Delta State	
S.16	@ARIZONA	
S.23	Central Arkansas	
S.30	North Dakota State	
O.7	@TEXAS STATE	21-38
O.21	McNeese State	23-33
O.28	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	23-45
N.4	Sam Houston State	24-52
N.11	@NICHOLLS STATE	27-21 (OT)
N.18	Northwestern State	21-41

Coach: *Robert McFarland* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Lumberjacks* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

STONY BROOK
Stony Brook, NY

A.31	Hofstra	0-55
S.9	@GEORGETOWN	7-10
S.16	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
S.23	@MASSACHUSETTS	
S.30	@MONMOUTH	7-36
O.7	Albany	7-3
O.14	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	47-29
O.21	Sacred Heart	14-21
O.28	Robert Morris	38-37
N.4	@WAGNER	28-10
N.11	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	23-21

Coach: *Chuck Priare* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Grey* ***Nickname:*** *Seawolves* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

SYRACUSE
Syracuse, NY

S.2	@WAKE FOREST	
S.9	Iowa	
S.16	@ILLINOIS	
S.23	Miami (OH)	
S.30	Wyoming	
O.7	Pittsburgh	17-34
O.14	@WEST VIRGINIA	7-15
O.21	Louisville	17-41
O.28	@CINCINNATI	16-22
N.11	@SOUTH FLORIDA	0-27
N.18	Connecticut	7-26
N.25	@RUTGERS	9-31

Coach: *Greg Robinson* ***Colors:*** *Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Orange* ***2005 Record:*** *1-10*

TCU
Fort Worth, TX

S.2	@BAYLOR	
S.9	California-Davis	
S.16	Texas Tech	
S.28	Brigham Young	51-50 (OT)
O.5	@UTAH	23-20 (OT)
O.21	@ARMY	38-17
O.28	Wyoming	28-14
N.4	@UNLV	51-3
N.11	@NEW MEXICO	49-28
N.18	San Diego State	23-20
N.25	@COLORADO STATE	33-6
D.2	Air Force	48-10

Coach: *Gary Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Harned Frogs* ***2005 Record:*** *10-1*

TEMPLE
Philadelphia, PA

A.31	@BUFFALO	
S.9	Louisville	
S.16	@MINNESOTA	
S.23	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	16-19
S.30	@VANDERBILT	
O.7	Kent State	
O.12	@CLEMSON*	7-37
O.21	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
O.28	Bowling Green	7-70
N.4	Central Michigan	
N.11	@PENN STATE	
N.18	@NAVY	17-38

**At Charlotte, NC*

Coach: *Al Golden* ***Colors:*** *Cherry & White* ***Nickname:*** *Owls* ***2005 Record:*** *0-11*

TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN

S.2	California	
S.9	Air Force	
S.16	Florida	7-16
S.23	Marshall	
S.30	@MEMPHIS	20-16
O.7	@GEORGIA	14-27
O.21	Alabama	3-6
O.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	15-16
N.4	LSU	30-27 (OT)
N.11	@ARKANSAS	
N.18	@VANDERBILT	24-28
N.25	Kentucky	27-8

Coach: *Phillip Fulmer* ***Colors:*** *Orange & White* ***Nickname:*** *Volunteers* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

TENNESSEE STATE
Nashville, TN

S.2	Alabama A&M	14-27
S.9	Murray State	
S.16	@JACKSON STATE*	20-14 (OT)
S.23	@VANDERBILT	
S.30	Florida A&M**	7-12
O.14	Tennessee Tech	31-20
O.21	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	3-33
O.28	Samford	11-31
N.4	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	3-27
N.11	Southeast Missouri State	24-32
N.18	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	0-49

** At Memphis, TN*
*** At Atlanta, GA*

Coach: *James Webster* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

TENNESSEE TECH
Cookeville, TN

A.31	Chattanooga	23-30 (OT)
S.9	@GARDNER-WEBB	
S.14	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	
S.21	Eastern Kentucky	3-52
S.30	@MURRAY STATE	42-21
O.7	Tennessee-Martin	16-46
O.14	@TENNESSEE STATE	20-31
O.26	Jacksonville State	17-43
N.4	@SAMFORD	42-21
N.11	Eastern Illinois	20-31
N.18	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	31-24

Coach: *Mike Hennigan* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Eagles* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Martin, TN

S.2	@OHIO	
S.7	Urbana	
S.16	Gardner-Webb	31-28
S.23	Jacksonville State	17-37
S.30	@AUSTIN PEAY	
O.7	@TENNESSEE TECH	46-16
O.21	@SAMFORD	22-30
O.28	Eastern Illinois	7-26
N.4	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	24-21
N.11	Eastern Kentucky	17-31
N.18	@MURRAY STATE	49-20

Coach: *Jason Simpson* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Skyhawks* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

TEXAS
Austin, TX

S.2	North Texas	
S.9	Ohio State	25-22
S.16	@RICE*	51-10
S.23	Iowa State	
S.30	Sam Houston State	
O.7	@OKLAHOMA**	45-12
O.14	Baylor	62-0
O.21	@NEBRASKA	
O.28	@TEXAS TECH	52-17
N.4	Oklahoma State	47-28
N.11	@KANSAS STATE	
N.24	Texas A&M	40-29

**At Houston, TX*
***At Dallas, TX*

Coach: *Mack Brown* ***Colors:*** *White & Burnt Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Longhorns* ***2005 Record:*** *12-0*

TEXAS A&M
College Station, TX

S.2	Citadel	
S.9	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.16	Army*	
S.23	Louisiana Tech	
S.30	Texas Tech	17-56
O.7	@KANSAS	
O.14	Missouri	
O.21	@OKLAHOMA STATE	62-23
O.28	@BAYLOR	16-13 (OT)
N.4	Oklahoma	30-36
N.11	Nebraska	
N.24	@TEXAS	29-40

**At San Antonio, TX*

Coach: *Dennis Franchione* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

TEXAS SOUTHERN
Houston, TX

S.2	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M*	27-30
S.9	@ALABAMA STATE	15-27
S.16	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
S.23	Alabama A&M	17-7
S.30	Jackson State	21-24
O.14	@ALCORN STATE	22-29
O.21	Mississippi Valley State	28-35
O.28	Grambling State	21-58
N.4	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	20-44
N.11	@TEXAS STATE	
N.18	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	23-40

**At Houston, TX*

Coach: *Steve Wilson* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *1-10*

TEXAS STATE
San Marcos, TX

S.2	Tarleton State	
S.9	@KENTUCKY	
S.16	Northern Colorado	
S.23	@SOUTHERN UTAH	34-0
O.7	Stephen F. Austin	38-21
O.14	@MCNEESE STATE	49-7
O.21	Southeastern Louisiana	30-15
O.28	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	31-16
N.4	Nicholls State	29-32 (OT)
N.11	Texas Southern	
N.18	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	26-23 (OT)

Coach: *David Bailiff* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bobcats* ***2005 Record:*** *11-3*

TEXAS TECH
Lubbock, TX

S.2	Southern Methodist	
S.9	@UTEP	
S.16	@TCU	
S.23	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.30	@TEXAS A&M	56-17
O.7	Missouri	
O.14	@COLORADO	
O.21	@IOWA STATE	
O.28	Texas	17-52
N.4	Baylor	28-0
N.11	@OKLAHOMA	23-21
N.18	Oklahoma State	17-24

Coach: *Mike Leach* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Red Raiders* ***2005 Record:*** *9-2*

TOLEDO
Toledo, OH

A.31	@IOWA STATE	
S.9	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	56-23
S.15	Kansas	
S.23	McNeese State	
S.30	@PITTSBURGH	
O.7	Central Michigan	17-21
O.14	@KENT STATE	
O.21	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	30-3
O.28	Akron	
N.7	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17-35
N.14	Ball State	34-14
N.21	Bowling Green	44-41 (OT)

Coach: *Tom Amstutz* ***Colors:*** *Midnight Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Rackets* ***2005 Record:*** *8-3*

TOWSON
Towson, MD

S.2	Morgan State	29-26
S.9	@ELON	
S.16	Liberty	38-17
S.23	@HOFSTRA	
O.7	Maine	
O.14	Massachusetts	
O.21	@VILLANOVA	40-19
O.28	@DELAWARE	35-31
N.4	William & Mary	13-44
N.11	@RICHMOND	21-48
N.18	James Madison	14-55

Coach: *Gardy Cambs* ***Colors:*** *White, Gald & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

TROY
Troy, AL

S.2	Alabama State	
S.9	@FLORIDA STATE	
S.16	@GEORGIA TECH	
S.23	@NEBRASKA	
S.30	@UAB	7-27
O.14	Louisiana-Monroe	3-27
O.28	North Texas	13-10
N.4	Louisiana-Lafayette	28-31 (OT)
N.11	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	28-14
N.18	Arkansas State	3-9
N.25	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	7-17
D.2	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	18-13

Coach: *Larry Blakeney* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal, Silver & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Trojans* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

TULANE
New Orleans, LA

S.9	@HOUSTON	14-35
S.16	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	14-21
S.23	@LSU	
S.30	Southern Methodist	31-10
O.7	Rice	34-42
O.14	@UTEP	21-45
O.21	@AUBURN	
O.28	Army	
N.4	@MARSHALL	26-27
N.11	Southern Miss	7-26
N.18	UCF	24-34
N.24	@TULSA	14-38

Coach: *Chris Scelfo* ***Colors:*** *Olive Green & Sky Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Green Wave* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

TULSA
Tulsa, OK

A.31	Stephen F. Austin	
S.9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.16	North Texas	54-2
S.23	@NAVY	
O.3	Southern Miss	34-17
O.14	@EAST CAROLINA	45-13
O.21	@MEMPHIS	37-31 (OT)
O.27	UTEP	38-41
N.4	@HOUSTON	23-30
N.11	Rice	41-21
N.18	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	20-13
N.24	Tulane	38-14

Coach: *Steve Kragtharpe* ***Colors:*** *Crimson, Royal Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Hurricane* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

UAB
Birmingham, AL

S.2	@OKLAHOMA	
S.9	East Carolina	23-31
S.16	@GEORGIA	
S.23	Mississippi State	
S.30	Troy	27-7
O.7	Memphis	37-20
O.14	@RICE	45-26
O.21	Marshall	19-20

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

0.31	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	27-28
N.10	UTEP	35-23
N.18	@SOUTHERN MISS	28-37
N.25	@UCF	21-27

Coach: *Watson Brown* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & White* ***Nickname:*** *Blazers* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

UCF

Orlando, FL

S.2	Villanova	
S.9	@FLORIDA	
S.16	South Florida	14-31
S.26	Southern Miss	31-52
0.4	@MARSHALL	23-13
0.13	Pittsburgh	
0.21	Rice	31-28
0.28	@HOUSTON	31-29
N.4	East Carolina	30-20
N.11	@MEMPHIS	38-17
N.18	@TULANE	34-24
N.25	UAB	27-21

Coach: *George O'Leary* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Golden Knights* ***2005 Record:*** *8-4*

UCLA

Los Angeles, CA

S.2	Utah	
S.9	Rice	63-21
S.23	@WASHINGTON	21-17
S.30	Stanford	30-27 (OT)
0.7	Arizona	14-52
0.14	@OREGON	
0.21	@NOTRE DAME	
0.28	Washington State	44-41 (OT)
N.4	@CALIFORNIA	47-40
N.11	Oregon State	51-28
N.18	@ARIZONA STATE	45-35
D.2	USC	19-66

Coach: *Karl Dorrell* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Bruins* ***2005 Record:*** *9-2*

UNLV

Las Vegas, NV

S.2	Idaho State	
S.9	@IOWA STATE	
S.16	@HAWAII	
S.30	Nevada	14-22
0.7	@COLORADO STATE	27-31
0.14	New Mexico	22-24
0.21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-55
0.28	@UTAH	32-42
N.4	TCU	3-51
N.11	@SAN DIEGO STATE	13-10
N.18	Wyoming	17-42
N.24	Air Force	7-42

Coach: *Mike Sanford* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

USC

Los Angeles, CA

S.2	@ARKANSAS	70-17
S.16	Nebraska	
S.23	@ARIZONA	42-21
S.30	@WASHINGTON STATE	55-13
0.7	Washington	51-24
0.14	Arizona State	38-28
0.28	@OREGON STATE	
N.4	@STANFORD	51-21
N.11	Oregon	45-13
N.18	California	35-10
N.25	Notre Dame	34-31
D.2	@UCLA	66-19

Coach: *Pete Carroll* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Trojans* ***2005 Record:*** *12-0*

UTAH

Salt Lake City, UT

S.2	@UCLA	
S.9	Northern Arizona	
S.16	@UTAH STATE	31-7
S.23	@SAN DIEGO STATE	19-28
S.30	Boise State	
0.5	TCU	20-23 (OT)
0.14	@WYOMING	43-13
0.19	@NEW MEXICO	27-31
0.28	UNLV	42-32
N.11	Colorado State	17-21
N.18	@AIR FORCE	38-35
N.25	Brigham Young	41-34 (OT)

Coach: *Kyle Whittingham* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & White* ***Nickname:*** *Utes* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

UTAH STATE

Logan, UT

S.2	@WYOMING	
S.9	@ARKANSAS	
S.16	Utah	7-31
S.23	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.30	Idaho	13-27
0.7	Fresno State	21-53
0.14	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-17
0.21	@LOUISIANA TECH	17-27
N.4	Hawaii	23-50
N.11	@NEVADA	24-30
N.18	@BOISE STATE	21-45
N.25	New Mexico State	24-21

Coach: *Brent Guy* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

UTEP

El Paso, TX

A.31	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
S.9	Texas Tech	
S.23	@NEW MEXICO	21-13
S.30	New Mexico State	34-17
0.7	Southern Methodist	27-40
0.14	Tulane	45-21
0.21	@HOUSTON	44-41 (OT)
0.27	@TULSA	41-38
N.4	Rice	38-31
N.10	@UAB	23-35
N.18	@MARSHALL	31-3
N.25	Memphis	20-27

Coach: *Mike Price* ***Colors:*** *Orange, Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Miners* ***2005 Record:*** *8-3*

VALPARAISO

Valparaiso, IN

S.2	@WISCONSIN LUTHERAN	17-3
S.9	Trinity International (IL)	
S.16	@MOREHEAD STATE	7-48
S.23	Drake	24-49
S.30	Jacksonville	
0.7	@ST. JOSEPH'S (IN)	21-34
0.14	@SAN DIEGO	21-63
0.21	@BUTLER	34-21
0.28	Davidson	17-48
N.4	@DAYTON	7-52
N.11	Aurora	13-7

Coach: *Stacy Adams* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Crusaders* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

VANDERBILT

Nashville, TN

S.2	@MICHIGAN	
S.9	@ALABAMA	
S.16	Arkansas	28-24
S.23	Tennessee State	
S.30	Temple	
0.7	@MISSISSIPPI	31-23
0.14	@GEORGIA	17-34
0.21	South Carolina	28-35
0.28	@DUKE	
N.4	Florida	42-49 (OT)
N.11	@KENTUCKY	43-48
N.18	Tennessee	28-24

Coach: *Bobby Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Commodores* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

VILLANOVA

Villanova, PA

S.2	@UCF	
S.9	Lehigh	
S.16	Massachusetts	
S.23	@PENNSYLVANIA	28-24
0.7	@HOFSTRA	
0.14	@MAINE	
0.21	Towson	19-40
0.28	@WILLIAM & MARY	35-21
N.4	Richmond	20-38
N.11	James Madison	13-28
N.18	@DELAWARE	13-38

Coach: *Andy Talley* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

VIRGINIA

Charlottesville, VA

S.2	@PITTSBURGH	
S.9	Wyoming	
S.16	Western Michigan	31-19
S.21	@GEORGIA TECH	27-17
S.30	@DUKE	38-7
0.7	@EAST CAROLINA	
0.14	Maryland	33-45
0.19	North Carolina	5-7
0.28	North Carolina State	
N.4	@FLORIDA STATE	26-21
N.18	Miami (FL)	17-25
N.25	@VIRGINIA TECH	14-52

Coach: *Al Groh* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Cavaliers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

VIRGINIA MILITARY

Lexington, VA

S.2	Davidson	33-0
S.9	@NORFOLK STATE	
S.16	@RICHMOND	3-38
S.23	@WILLIAM & MARY	7-41
S.30	James Madison	
0.7	@ARMY	
0.14	Coastal Carolina	14-38
0.21	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	34-12
0.28	@GARDNER-WEBB	52-55 (OT)
N.11	@CITADEL	14-22
N.18	Liberty	10-7

Coach: *Jim Reid* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Keydets* ***2005 Record:*** *3-8*

VIRGINIA TECH

Blacksburg, VA

S.2	Northeastern	
S.9	@NORTH CAROLINA	30-3
S.16	Duke	45-0
S.23	Cincinnati	
S.30	Georgia Tech	51-7
0.12	@BOSTON COLLEGE	30-10
0.21	Southern Miss	
0.26	Clemson	
N.4	@MIAMI (FL)	7-27
N.11	Kent State	
N.18	@WAKE FOREST	
N.25	Virginia	52-14

Coach: *Frank Beamer* ***Colors:*** *Burnt Orange & Chicago Maroon* ***Nickname:*** *Hokies* ***2005 Record:*** *10-2*

WAGNER

Staten Island, NY

S.2	@LA SALLE	41-27
S.9	Iona	14-0
S.16	@MARIST	21-38
S.23	St. Peter's	52-25
S.30	@SACRED HEART	26-21
0.7	Robert Morris	30-38
0.14	Monmouth	26-20
0.21	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	34-38
0.28	@ALBANY	10-38
N.4	Stony Brook	10-28
N.11	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	23-21

Coach: *Walt Hameline* ***Colors:*** *Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Seahawks* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

WAKE FOREST

Winston-Salem, NC

S.2	Syracuse	
S.9	Duke	44-6
S.16	@CONNECTICUT	
S.23	@MISSISSIPPI	
S.30	Liberty	
0.7	Clemson	31-27
0.14	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	27-19
0.28	@NORTH CAROLINA	
N.4	Boston College	30-35
N.11	@FLORIDA STATE	24-41
N.18	Virginia Tech	
N.25	@MARYLAND	12-22

Coach: *Jim Grobe* ***Colors:*** *Black & Old Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Demon Deacons* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

WASHINGTON

Seattle, WA

S.2	San Jose State	
S.9	@OKLAHOMA	
S.16	Fresno State	
S.23	UCLA	17-21
S.30	@ARIZONA	38-14
0.7	@USC	24-51
0.14	Oregon State	10-18
0.21	@CALIFORNIA	17-56
0.28	Arizona State	20-44
N.4	@OREGON	21-45
N.11	Stanford	
N.18	@WASHINGTON STATE	22-26

Coach: *Tyrone Willingham* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2005 Record:*** *2-9*

WASHINGTON STATE

Pullman, WA

S.2	@AUBURN	
S.9	Idaho	38-26
S.16	Baylor	
S.23	@STANFORD	21-24
S.30	USC	13-55
0.7	@OREGON STATE	33-44
0.14	California	38-42
0.21	Oregon	31-34
0.28	@UCLA	41-44 (OT)
N.4	Arizona	
N.11	@ARIZONA STATE	24-27
N.18	Washington	26-22

Coach: *Bill Doba* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Cougars* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

WEBER STATE

Ogden, UT

S.2	@COLORADO STATE	
S.9	Cal Poly	
S.16	Southern Utah	27-10
S.23	Portland State	14-39
S.29	Northern Colorado	
0.7	@SACRAMENTO STATE	26-14
0.21	Montana	19-24
0.28	@MONTANA STATE	24-27
N.4	Eastern Washington	28-23
N.11	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	31-23
N.18	@IDAHO STATE	30-21

Coach: *Ron McBride* ***Colors:*** *Royal Purple & White* ***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown, WV

S.2	Marshall	
S.9	Eastern Washington	
S.14	Maryland	31-19
S.23	@EAST CAROLINA	20-15
0.7	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
0.14	Syracuse	15-7
0.20	@CONNECTICUT	45-13
N.2	@LOUISVILLE	46-44 (OT)
N.11	Cincinnati	38-0
N.16	@PITTSBURGH	45-13
N.25	South Florida	28-13
D.2	Rutgers	27-14

Coach: *Rich Rodriguez* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Mountaineers* ***2005 Record:*** *10-1*

WESTERN CAROLINA

Cullowhee, NC

A.31	Chowan	
S.16	Eastern Kentucky	
S.23	@FURMAN	41-21
S.30	Georgia Southern	7-45
0.7	@ELON	31-26
0.14	Chattanooga	38-20
0.21	@CITADEL	7-17
0.28	@WOFFORD	24-0
N.4	@LIBERTY	
N.11	Appalachian State	7-35
N.18	@FLORIDA	

Coach: *Kent Briggs* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Catamounts* ***2005 Record:*** *5-4*

WESTERN ILLINOIS

Macomb, IL

A.31	Morehead State	
S.9	@WISCONSIN	
S.16	Kentucky Wesleyan	
S.23	@NORTHERN COLORADO	28-23
S.30	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	7-42
0.7	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	24-34
0.14	Youngstown State	21-23
0.21	Illinois State	31-17
0.28	@NORTHERN IOWA	24-41
N.4	Indiana State	63-35
N.11	@MISSOURI STATE	34-24

Coach: *Don Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple and Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Leathernecks* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, KY

S.2	@GEORGIA	
S.9	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	23-21
S.16	Chattanooga	
S.30	Western Illinois	42-7
0.7	Illinois State	37-34 (OT)
0.14	@MISSOURI STATE	37-28
0.21	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	20-31
0.28	Indiana State	38-28
N.4	@NORTHERN IOWA	20-23 (OT)
N.11	Youngstown State	10-42
N.18	Austin Peay	

Coach: *David Elson* ***Colors:*** *Red & White* ***Nickname:*** *Hilltoppers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Kalamazoo, MI

S.2	@INDIANA	
S.9	Toledo	23-56
S.16	@VIRGINIA	19-31
S.23	Temple	19-16
0.7	@OHIO	
0.14	Northern Illinois	7-42
0.21	@BALL STATE	57-60 (OT)
0.28	Eastern Michigan	44-36
N.4	Miami (OH)	
N.10	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	31-24
N.18	@FLORIDA STATE	
N.24	@AKRON	

Coach: *Bill Cubit* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Broncos* ***2005 Record:*** *7-4*

WILLIAM & MARY

Williamsburg, VA

S.2	@MARYLAND	
S.16	Maine	
S.23	Virginia Military	41-7
S.30	Hofstra	
0.7	@MASSACHUSETTS	
0.14	@LIBERTY	56-0
0.21	@JAMES MADISON	29-30
0.28	Villanova	21-35
N.4	@TOWSON	44-13
N.11	@DELAWARE	21-22
N.18	Richmond	7-41

Coach: *Jimmye Laycock* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & Silver* ***Nickname:*** *Tribe* ***2005 Record:*** *5-6*

WISCONSIN

Madison, WI

S.2	@BOWLING GREEN*	56-42
S.9	Western Illinois	
S.16	San Diego State	
S.23	@MICHIGAN	23-20
S.30	@INDIANA	41-24
0.7	Northwestern	48-51
0.14	Minnesota	38-34
0.21	@PURDUE	31-20
0.28	Illinois	41-24
N.4	Penn State	14-35
N.11	@IOWA	10-20
N.18	Buffalo	

**At Cleveland, OH*

Coach: *Bret Bielema* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White* ***Nickname:*** *Badgers* ***2005 Record:*** *9-3*

WOFFORD

Spartanburg, SC

S.2	South Carolina State	
S.9	Coastal Carolina	
S.16	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.30	Furman	21-34
0.7	Citadel	28-10
0.14	@APPALACHIAN STATE	17-49
0.21	@ELON	14-9
0.28	Western Carolina	0-24
N.4	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	21-17
N.11	Chattanooga	13-25
N.18	@GARDNER-WEBB	56-42

Coach: *Mike Ayers* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black* ***Nickname:*** *Terriers* ***2005 Record:*** *6-5*

WYOMING

Laramie, WY

S.2	Utah State	
S.9	@VIRGINIA	
S.16	Boise State	
S.23	Air Force	29-28
S.30	@SYRACUSE	
0.7	@NEW MEXICO	24-27
0.14	Utah	13-43
0.21	Colorado State	31-39
0.28	@TCU	14-28
N.4	San Diego State	21-34
N.9	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	21-35
N.18	@UNLV	42-17

Coach: *Joe Glenn* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Yellow* ***Nickname:*** *Cowboys* ***2005 Record:*** *4-7*

YALE

New Haven, CT

S.16	San Diego	14-17
S.23	@CORNELL	37-17
S.30	@LAFAYETTE	
0.7	@DARTMOUTH	13-0
0.14	Lehigh	21-28 (OT)
0.21	Pennsylvania	21-38
0.28	Columbia	37-3
N.4	@BROWN	21-38
N.11	Princeton	21-14
N.18	@HARVARD	24-30 (OT)

Coach: *Jack Siedlecki* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2005 Record:*** *4-6*

YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Youngstown, OH

A.31	Slippery Rock	44-14
S.9	Maine	
S.16	@PENN STATE	
S.23	California-Davis	
S.30	@MISSOURI STATE	31-7
0.7	Indiana State	45-0
0.14	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	23-21
0.21	Northern Iowa	7-21
0.28	@ILLINOIS STATE	20-17
N.4	Southern Illinois	17-31
N.11	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	42-10

Coach: *Jon Heacock* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White* ***Nickname:*** *Penguins 2005* ***Record:*** *8-3*

** RECORDS FOR REGULAR SEASON ONLY*

2006-07 BOWL SCHEDULE

BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES abc

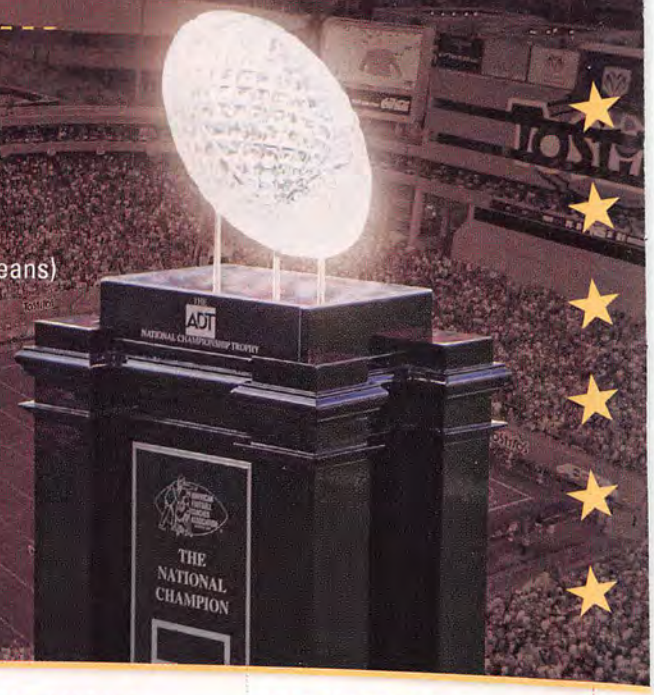
FIESTA BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Glendale, Ariz.)
BCS vs. BCS
8:30 p.m. FOX

ORANGE BOWL
Jan. 2, 2007 (Miami)
BCS vs. BCS
8:00 p.m. FOX

ROSE BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Pasadena, Calif.)
BCS vs. BCS
5:00 p.m. ABC

SUGAR BOWL
Jan. 3, 2007 (New Orleans)
BCS vs. BCS
8:00 p.m. FOX

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Jan. 8, 2007 (Glendale, Ariz.)
No. 1 BCS vs. No. 2 BCS
FOX



POINSETTIA BOWL
Dec. 19, 2006 (San Diego)
MWC vs. at-large
8:00 p.m. ESPN2

GMAC BOWL
Dec. 20, 2006 (Mobile, Ala.)
C-USA vs. MAC/WAC
8:00 p.m. ESPN

LAS VEGAS BOWL
Dec. 21, 2006 (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Pac-10 vs. MWC
8:00 p.m. ESPN

NEW ORLEANS BOWL
Dec. 22, 2006 (New Orleans)
Sun Belt vs. C-USA
8:00 p.m. ESPN2

BIRMINGHAM BOWL
Dec. 23, 2006 (Birmingham, Ala.)
Big East vs. C-USA
1:00 p.m. ESPN2

FORT WORTH BOWL
Dec. 23, 2006 (Fort Worth, Texas)
MWC vs. C-USA
8:00 p.m. ESPN

NEW MEXICO BOWL
Dec. 23, 2006 (Alburquerque, N.M.)
MWC vs. WAC
4:30 p.m. ESPN

HAWAII BOWL
Dec. 24, 2006 (Honolulu)
WAC vs. Pac-10
8:00 p.m. ESPN

MOTOR CITY BOWL
Dec. 26, 2006 (Detroit)
MAC vs. Big Ten
7:30 p.m. ESPN

EMERALD BOWL
Dec. 27, 2006 (San Francisco)
Pac-10 vs. ACC
8:00 p.m. ESPN

INDEPENDENCE BOWL
Dec. 27, 2006 (Shreveport, La.)
SEC vs. Big 12
4:30 p.m. ESPN

HOLIDAY BOWL
Dec. 28, 2006 (San Diego)
Pac-10 vs. Big 12
8:00 p.m. ESPN

CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL
Dec. 29, 2006 (Orlando)
Big Ten vs. ACC
8:00 p.m. ESPN

INSIGHT BOWL
Dec. 29, 2006 (Phoenix)
Pac-10 vs. Big 12
TBA NFL Network

MUSIC CITY BOWL
Dec. 29, 2006 (Nashville)
ACC vs. SEC
TBA ESPN

SUN BOWL
Dec. 29, 2006 (El Paso, Texas)
Pac-10 vs. Big East/Big 12
2:00 p.m. CBS

CHICK-FIL-A BOWL
Dec. 30, 2006 (Atlanta)
ACC vs. SEC
8:00 p.m. ESPN

MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL
Dec. 30, 2006 (Charlotte, N.C.)
ACC vs. Big East
1:00 p.m. ESPN

MPC COMPUTERS BOWL
Dec. 31, 2006 (Boise, Idaho)
ACC vs. WAC
7:30 p.m. ESPN

ALAMO BOWL
Late Dec., details TBA (San Antonio)
Big Ten vs. Big 12
TBA ESPN

LIBERTY BOWL
Late Dec., details TBA (Memphis)
C-USA vs. SEC
TBA ESPN

CAPITAL ONE BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Orlando)
Big Ten vs. SEC
1:00 p.m. ABC

COTTON BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Dallas)
Big 12 vs. SEC
11:30 a.m. Fox

GATOR BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big East/Big 12
1:00 p.m. NBC

OUTBACK BOWL
Jan. 1, 2007 (Tampa)
Big Ten vs. SEC
11:00 a.m. ESPN

INTERNATIONAL BOWL
Jan. 6, 2007 (Toronto)
Big East vs. MAC
12:00 p.m. ESPN2

ALL TIMES EASTERN

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City State Zip

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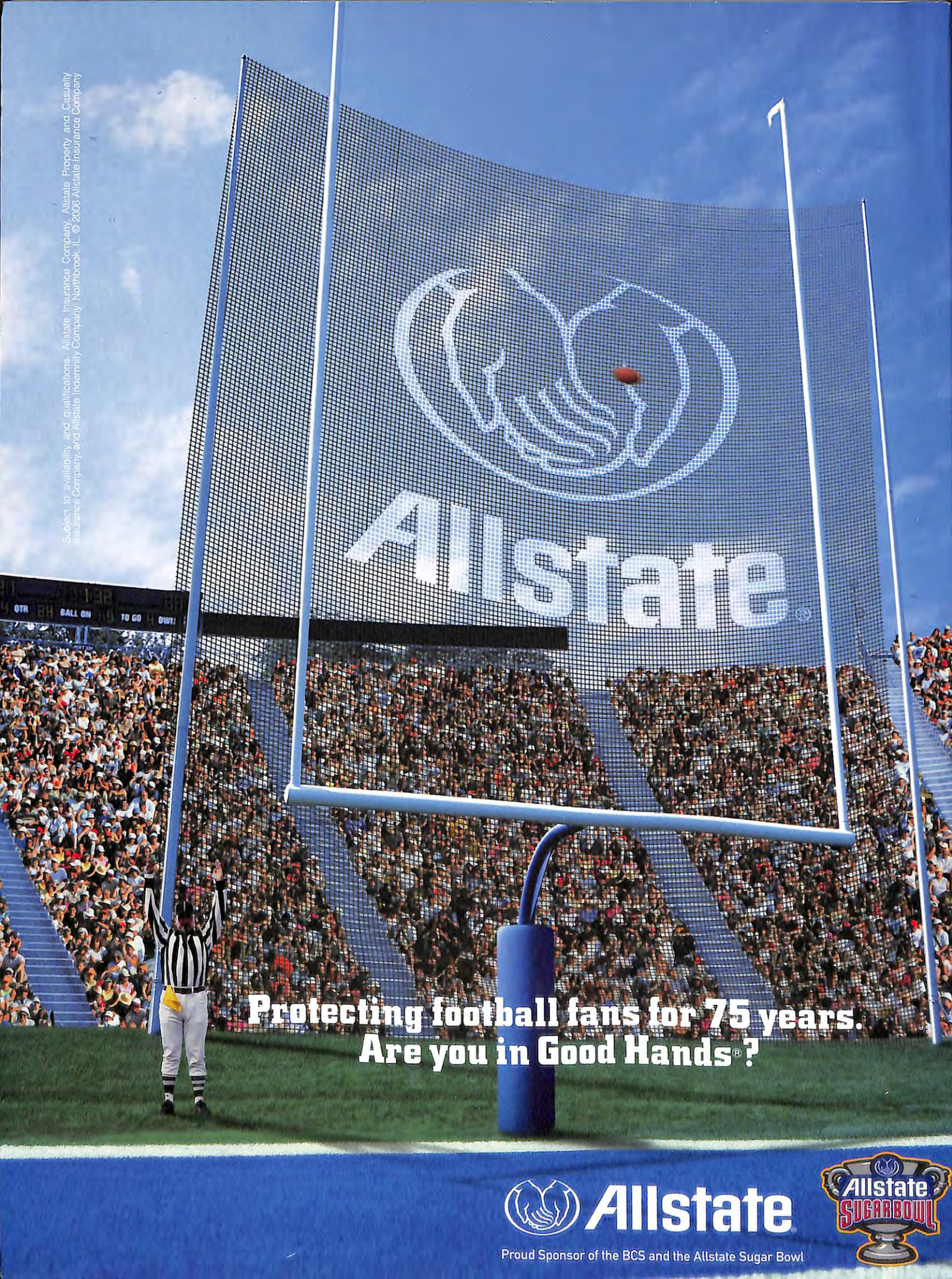
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